

Re-election threat for overspenders

Heseltine in challenge over poll tax reform

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MR MICHAEL HESELTINE today throws down a central challenge to the Cabinet on the future of the poll tax. In an article in *The Times*, he rejects a whole series of options being looked at by the committee of Cabinet ministers considering alterations to the community charge.

Instead, he proposes that all members of councils whose charge reflected a spending level more than a given percentage above the Government's assessment of their needs should have to face a local election. Mr Heseltine says: "I narrowly failed to persuade the Cabinet to adopt this proposal in 1981 (when he was Secretary of State for the Environment). I still believe it would work."

Arguing that the fear of electoral defeat is the only factor that keeps down spending – historically, councils have held down rates in election years – Mr Heseltine says the disciplines could be tightened further by insisting that a local authority proposing a high community charge would have to pay the Treasury a surcharge to compensate for the inflationary consequences.

Mr Heseltine, who says the Government will not be given another chance after this one to get the poll tax right, repeats his call for paid, directly-elected mayors with tougher value-for-money audits. He

urges the recreation of unitary authorities, pointing out that the much-vaunted Tory success in the low-poll tax boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster – which ministers have taken as evidence that the principle of the poll tax is saleable – would have been unlikely if voters there had been confused by precepts from the old Greater London Council or Inner London Education Authority.

Ministers are discussing in private the idea of a return to single-tier boroughs after the next election; the question is whether they will retain their enthusiasm for the idea, or take up any other of Mr Heseltine's proposed reforms now Mrs Margaret Thatcher's main challenger has adopted them. The onus will be on the Cabinet to come up with something better or accept his ideas with a good grace.

In a series of other proposals that will open up the poll tax debate and could well influence any future leadership struggle, Mr Heseltine says that the disciplines could be tightened further by insisting that a local authority proposing a high community charge would have to pay the Treasury a surcharge to compensate for the inflationary consequences.

He criticizes the system of rebates and makes a clear demand for the exemption of the elderly living at home from paying the charge, declaring: "Taxing the elderly when they remain at home, looked after by their families, transfer to old people's homes – thereby increasing public expenditure – would save them personally around £350 a year, seems to me a negation of Tory principles." He also describes the double burden of poll tax and business rate for small businesses living above the shop as unacceptable.

Rejecting present practice in assessing rebates, he says: "The deemed assumption by the Government that savings can earn over 20 per cent is frankly incredible." And in another indication of the exemptions he seeks, Mr Heseltine says: "We have gained the maximum political opprobrium by charging the physically disabled, student nurses and students themselves with precious little extra revenue to show for it."

Accepting that the Conservatives will fight the next election with the poll tax in place and warning that it costs £1 billion in Treasury funds to reduce the average charge by £28, he rejects a number of the

article also includes a warning that wage claims are "damagingly close to double-figure disaster" and that local authorities in their spending plans are unlikely to confine themselves to the amount required to cover inflation.

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INSIDE

Property firm lays off 800

Rush & Tompkins, the property developer has laid off 800 of its 1,750 employees. The move came as the receivers estimated the group's total debt at more than £300 million. Several main board directors will lose their jobs.

Mr Christopher Morris, one of the receivers, said he had not yet completed a review of Rush & Tompkins' business but that it was very unlikely shareholders would receive any money back.....Page 25

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Lithuania's supplies of oil will run out within the next three weeks. Mrs Kazimira Prunskiene, the country's Prime Minister, said in London yesterday when she visited Mrs Thatcher to ask for British support.....Page 10

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Exciting vision
Nanotechnology is a field of science that conjures up exciting visions: microbots injected into the bloodstream to perform surgery or used to attack air pollution. Hype versus reality – in Science and Technology.....Page 39

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Mr Moynihan: Has won support for alcohol ban

BOURNEMOUTH councillors yesterday initiated legal action against both the Football League and Leeds United in a bid to obtain tens of thousands of pounds in compensation after the weekend riot by visiting soccer hooligans.

While Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, appeared to be waging an uphill campaign to get Sardinian authorities to ban alcohol when they play host to England in the World Cup this summer, the councillors on the Dorset coast voted unanimously to engage counsel to prepare a case for suing the league and the club. Saturday's troubles at Bournemouth were also uppermost in the mind of Mr Lennart Johansson, president of Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

He said he would be seeking guar-

antees from the British Government that it would "take all possible legal steps on security abroad and at home on high-risk matches" before the crucial meeting of the union to decide whether English soccer clubs should be allowed to resume European competition.

He said that even if England had a trouble-free World Cup, it would not guarantee the clubs' re-admission to Europe. He wanted guarantees from the Government, he said, in the wake of the trouble at Bournemouth, where he had been "dismayed" to see the lack of co-operation between the police, who wanted the fixture date changed, and the football authorities, who refused.

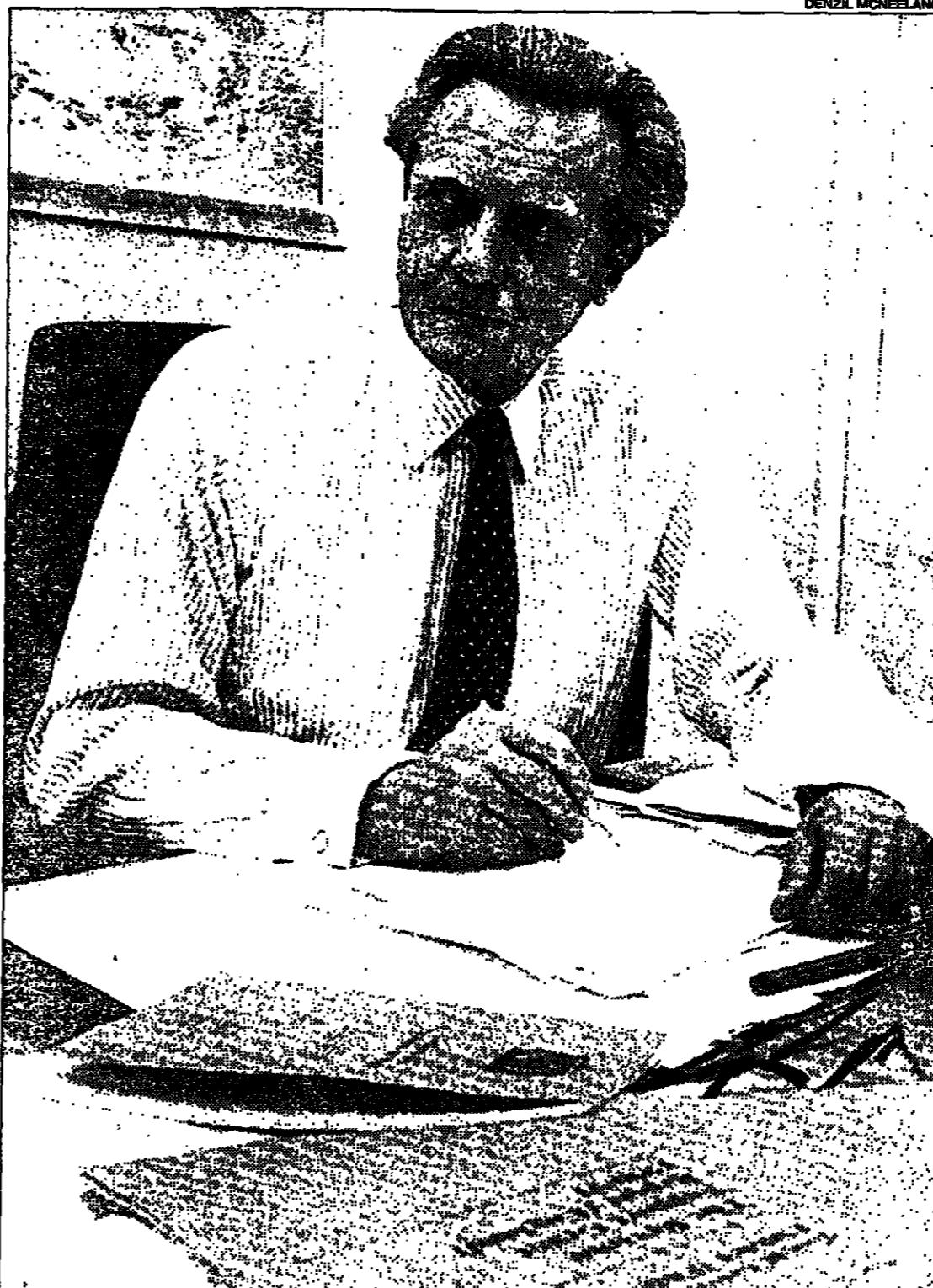
In Bournemouth itself, Mr Stephen Chappel, the council's solicitor, said that any action would serve as a test case. In view of the admissions of the Football League, the council should quantify its losses and issue a claim against the

league. If the claim is not met, they should issue a summons, he said. The council would only be able to sue for its own losses, he said, not those suffered by traders, householders or individuals whose cars were damaged during the rioting.

Superintendent Leslie Burns, who was in charge of policing Saturday's game, told the committee that he had not anticipated the level of violence. "We are extremely lucky we did not lose a life," he said.

Meanwhile, in Sardinia, Mr Moynihan's success at getting the Italian government's blessing for the idea of an alcohol ban ran into local opposition. There are grave doubts that the local prefect would upset local bar-owners and hoteliers by ordering them to shut when the English fans were in town.

Full report, page 48



Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday: he says the Government has one more chance on poll tax

Labour MPs disown report on teachers

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE bitter divisions surrounding the delayed publication of an all-party report on teacher supply over the next 10 years emerged yesterday when the four Labour members dissociated themselves from the final report. It called on the Government to provide a "substantial" amount of money to improve teachers' pay and conditions and to lift low classroom morale.

The four Labour MPs on the 11-strong committee said yesterday they voted against the report because it failed fully to reflect the evidence the committee received "about the dire state of the profession, and as a mark of our concern about the constant unacceptable pressure applied to the committee by government ministers and Tory whips".

Mr Malcolm Thornton, Conservative MP for Crosby, and chairman of the committee, said: "If the Government wants to deliver its reforms then it has to find the means. We have to look to John MacGregor [Secretary of State for Education and Science] to view this report sympathetically and hope that teachers will recognize it as a package of measures designed to help, not hinder." Mr Thornton did not think it was helpful for the committee to discuss its differences when it should be concentrating on the unanimous desire to improve the lot of teachers and to maintain an efficient education service. The report was delayed after the resignation last year of Mr Timothy Raison as committee chairman after a flurry of leaks and accusations of inter-party squabbles in the committee.

Mr Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, said there were "profound" differences over the report; mainly over the committee's approval of the licensed and articled teachers' scheme to give on-the-job training to mature students and to introduce differential salaries in the shortage subjects of mathematics, physics and technology.

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said many of the report's recommendations were designed "to con parents that something will be done".

Teachers' morale, page 5
Leading article, page 15

Peaceful day of Soviet parades

By Anatol Lieven and Mary Dejevsky

A FEW scuffles between armed troops and nationalist demonstrators in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, were the only manifestation of the violence which the leaders of the Baltic republics had feared would be spurred by yesterday's Victory Day parades in the Soviet Union.

In Moscow, Marshal Dmitri Yavov, the Soviet Defence Minister, presided over one of the most perfidious and least anti-Western Victory Day parades in the Soviet Union.

In Lithuania, the Soviet armed forces commemorated the 45th anniversary of their victory over Nazi Germany with an impressive display of military might. There had been warnings of violence beforehand by Soviet officers, and in Vilnius, the Lithuanian leadership had asked its supporters to remain at home to avoid any possibility of provocation.

Crowds estimated at less than 3,000 lined the city's main Gedymain Avenue to see the parade, including light armoured vehicles, pass the parliament building where independence was declared and where President Landsbergis has his office.

The scuffles appear to have been short-lived. Some ethnic Russian women in the crowd presented flowers to para-

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Car pricing inquiry launched

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

AN INVESTIGATION of British car prices, claimed to be as much as a third higher than the rest of Europe, is to be mounted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The commission has been asked by the Office of Fair Trading to establish whether British car buyers are often asked to pay substantially more than customers in the other 11 nations of the European Community.

It will also delve into the cost of parts and servicing, as part of the probe asked for by Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading.

He referred the matter to the monopolies commission after deciding that complaints by consumer organizations were sufficient to warrant a full

investigation. The inquiry comes on top of demands from Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner to know why prices vary so widely. Sir Leon has written to 15 manufacturers asking for an explanation of their prices.

The motor industry yesterday refused to mount a thorough defence of accusations that it was "milking" the British market, but produced exhaustive accounts of pricing policies throughout the EC.

Sir Gordon, however, said it was confident its policies would stand up to examination.

Rover also refused to disclose specific prices, but said there were substantial differences in specifications of

cars on sale in different countries. "They cannot be compared because the cars on sale in each nation vary widely according to circumstances," it said.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said it believed price differentials first highlighted by the European Consumers' Union in January were "greatly exaggerated" and pointed to the greater specification of UK cars over European rivals.

The organization, which represents both manufacturers and dealers, said it did not believe the system operated against the public interest.

Sir Gordon, however, said there was enough concern to warrant an examination of pricing policies and distribu-

tion and dealer networks. "Consumers may benefit from the exclusive dealer arrangements under which new cars are sold in the UK as long as they lead to competitive pricing, efficient servicing and essential spares back-up," he said.

"But if the distribution system leads to consumers paying more than is justified, that is another matter. It seems to me there are sufficient doubts."

The Office of Fair Trading wants the commission to complete its investigations and report to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, by August 9, 1991.

Prices compared, page 2
Stock market, page 32

Young under fire again over Rover

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

LORD Young of Graffham faced fresh allegations yesterday that he misled Parliament and the European Commission during the controversial £150 million sale of the Rover car company to British Aerospace.

However, the Commons trade and industry select committee split down party lines over the strength of its criticism of the former Trade and Industry Secretary's actions. After last night's private session to debate the draft report of the chairman, Mr Kenneth Warren, one committee MP reported: "We only got to paragraph 15 – and there was blood all over the place."

Although Mr Warren's report urges stringent criticism of Lord Young's handling of the sale, some of the other

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SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY

Sunroofs and radios of the fleet boom drive up all car prices

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

EVERY other car that leaves a British showroom is on its way to a company car driver. The trade is worth more than £10 billion a year, and is particularly valuable for British manufacturers who supply the fleet industry.

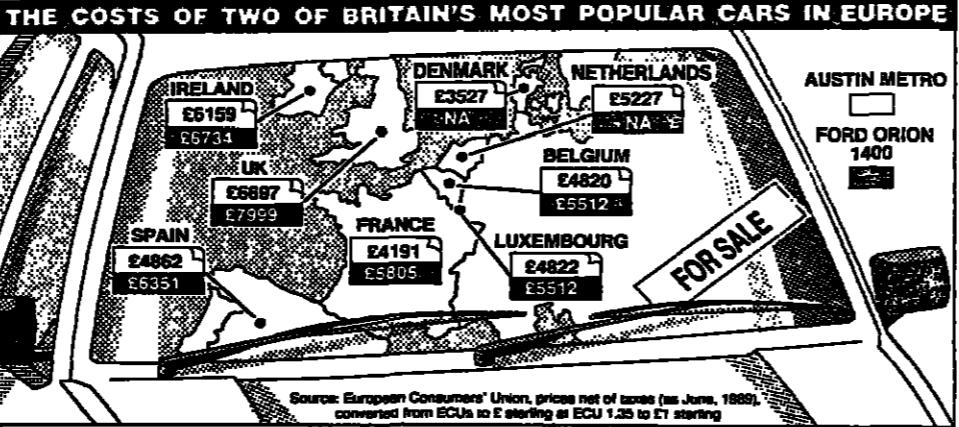
The effort of supplying that vast market, however, has brought an unwelcome spin-off for private car buyers who have to pay for the "extras" company car drivers demand. The British market has been the most open in Europe for 20 years; it is neither motivated by patriotism, as in West Germany or France, nor governed by high taxation.

The story throughout the rest of Europe has been vastly different, as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will discover when it opens its 15-month investigation into

manufacturers' pricing policies. The inquiry will not only have to examine prices at the factory gate for each car but taxation levels in each country and what goes into each car.

Britain is by far the most complex and competitive market in the European Community, with six out of 10 new cars coming from foreign manufacturers. It was Britain that first allowed the Japanese to exploit customers, disgruntled with low-quality home-built cars, and to discover that buyers were just as likely to be enticed by a radio or electrically powered windows as they were by price.

At the same time, a Labour Government wage freeze encouraged employers to offer company cars in lieu of pay rises. The result was an explosion of company car use, with



one in 10 of all cars now belonging to companies and half of all new car sales — more than a million a year — going into fleets.

With company profits buoyant throughout the late 1980s, firms spent freely on

new cars, bowing to the wishes of employees who wanted more luxuries in their cars.

The result is that British cars are, according to the manufacturers, much more highly specified than those available abroad.

said a check showed that VAT in Denmark was 22 per cent, and there were registration taxes up to 180 per cent over the pre-tax price.

In France, the Government has been steadily reducing VAT from more than 30 per cent to 25 per cent, while VAT in West Germany was 14 per cent. In Belgium, judged to be as much as a third cheaper than Britain, VAT was 25 per cent, and there were special taxes of up to 8 per cent on cars over three litres. However, the Government also imposes price restrictions, which means that price increases there of 1 per cent on average on some models this year compare with rises to combat inflation of 3 per cent in the UK.

Britain charges a 10 per cent Special Car Tax in addition to VAT of just short of 15 per

cent. Dr Cope said: "Pre-tax prices are often varied to allow for local taxation, which is as in the case of Denmark, is almost double the original price. That could distort the comparisons made by the European Consumers' Union."

A VW Passat CL Estate (90 brake horsepower) with catalytic converter, on sale in Belgium or West Germany would not have a driver's seat height adjuster, central locking, radio-cassette, stereo speaker fittings or wiring, full-size spare wheel or heated washer jets, plus a wide-angle door mirror as in Britain. The car here with those extra fittings is £9,237, in Belgium £8,929 and in Germany £9,550.

Despite that evidence, the suspicions are still strong that the motor industry has a case to answer. Why, for example, can buyers not have basic specification cars as abroad and then make their choices on extra items? Record sales suggest British buyers are willing to pay for the car of their choice at whatever price.

Government moves to plug gaps in union laws

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE Government yesterday moved to "plug" loopholes in the employment Bill now before Parliament just six days after Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, had described the attempt to rig the transport union workers' ballot as "disgraceful".

The announcement was immediately condemned by Mr Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, as "a crude campaign against the unions". The first amendment to be introduced to the Bill, which is primarily aimed at outlawing wildcat strikes, will give union members a chance to challenge their leaders' choice of an independent scrutineer for union elections.

The amendment will require unions to announce the name of the scrutineer in advance of the election and include his name on each voting paper. Government sources said yesterday the attempt to tamper with the elections for the national executive committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union was spotted by the Electoral Reform Society, and not the scrutineer nominated by the union.

The Serious Crime Squad, who were called in by Mr Ron Todd, the union's general secretary, is still investigating the allegations that more than 9,000 votes were illegally cast in favour of left-wing candidates. The second amendment to the Bill is planned to stop shop stewards from organizing unofficial action following

a strike ballot. It will require unions to specify on the voting paper who will call the strike if there is a majority in favour of taking action.

If a strike is called by someone whose name is not on the voting paper, it will be unlawful. If the Bill becomes law, shop stewards would be prevented from calling for strike action before the outcome of the ballot had been considered by the leadership of a union.

Mr Howard said yesterday: "These changes in the law are a natural extension of our legislation, which has given union members the right to elect their leaders by postal ballot and to decide for themselves whether or not to go on strike by voting in a secret ballot."

Last week, Mr Howard said:

"The disgraceful attempt to rig the TGWU election might never have come to light in the first place but for the Government's legislation requiring such elections to be conducted by postal ballot under independent scrutiny".

Mr Blair, however, said: "This is a political attempt by Mr Howard to play politics with trade unions, refighting the battles of the 1980s because he has lost those of the 1990s — training, skills and the rights of people at work."

Mr John Monks, the TUC deputy general secretary said: "It is one thing to support properly held ballots. It is quite another to overload the balloting process with a vast array of detailed and cumbersome legal rules."

Captain attends M1 crash inquest

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

CAPTAIN Kevin Hunt sat in his wheelchair in the library of a Leicestershire country house yesterday and stared expressionless at the floor as the names of the 47 passengers who died in the Boeing 737-400 he was piloting on the night of Sunday, January 8, 1989, were read out by the coroner at the opening of the inquest into the victims of the M1 air crash.

Neither he nor his first officer David McClelland need have been at the hearing but both decided to attend for personal reasons. Shortly before 10am Captain Hunt was driven into the courtyard of Prestwold Hall near Loughborough by his wife, Joan, and was then pushed by Mr McClelland through the ranks of news cameramen anxious to obtain the first picture of the crew who had apparently mistakenly shut down the right-hand engine of the jet when it was the left-hand engine that was damaged.

As relatives of the victims were ushered into the drawing room of the 19th-century house Captain Hunt and Mr McClelland sat quietly in the library only able to catch a glimpse of the coroner through connecting doors.

For nearly three hours they listened as medical evidence of the injuries each of the victims received when the jet ploughed into an embankment short of the runway of East Midlands airport.

Over the next few weeks 41 witnesses will be heard including seven from the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch and — finally — from Captain Hunt and Mr McClelland themselves.



Captain Hunt arrives for the opening of the inquest into the Kegworth air crash

Farmers 'ignoring' egg check rules

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

MANY poultry farmers are failing to carry out legally required salmonella tests on their flocks, and the Government is not providing the resources and information needed for proper enforcement of the regulations, trading standards officers said yesterday.

Under regulations introduced last year after the furore over salmonella in eggs, all poultry flocks laying eggs for human consumption must be tested for salmonella every 12 weeks. Any flock found to

contain infected birds has to be slaughtered. About 1.2 million birds have so far been destroyed.

Mr Keith Pulman, the secretary of the United Kingdom Egg Producers Association, said: "We have urged all our members to obey the testing rules, but the word has not yet got down to all the smaller producers."

In one area, North Yorkshire, trading standards officers reported yesterday that 212 of 231 poultry farms visited during the first three months of this year were found not to be testing their flocks. Mr Graham Venn, assistant county

trading standards officer, said: "Of these 231 farms, 82 had flocks of 100 birds or more, and of these only 11 had done tests and only four had notified the results to the Ministry of Agriculture."

It is not yet clear whether North Yorkshire is typical of Britain as a whole, but provisional reports from other counties indicate a high level of non-compliance.

Mr David Maclean, the parliamentary secretary at the ministry responsible for food safety, said farmers who sought to dodge the testing rules would give "eggs a bad name once again".

Police issue pictures as bogus social workers strike again

By Peter Davenport

DETECTIVES hunting bogus social workers who try to examine young children yesterday issued photofits of the couple in the latest incident in South Yorkshire.

They were released as police in Manchester and Dorset reported two more attempts by couples to examine children, both of which failed.

There have been nine such incidents in South Yorkshire. A special investigation team in Rotherham is looking into those and other cases reported in West Yorkshire, Humberside, Cheshire, Wiltshire and Somerset.

The man involved in the incident at Park Hill, South

Yorkshire, on Friday is described as white, aged 36 to 37, 5 ft 6 in to 5 ft 7 in tall, medium build with short mousey-coloured hair and moustache. The woman is white, 26 to 27, 5 ft 2 in to 5 ft 3 in tall, slim with fair, collar-length hair cut in a bob style.



Wanted couple: photofits of the man and woman who tried to examine a child last Friday

Choctaw reaffirm Irish link

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE American Indians are coming to Ireland this month to reaffirm a little known but fascinating historical link with Ireland's poor that goes back to the terrible times of the great famine 143 years ago.

On May 26, Chief Hollis E. Roberts and other members of the Choctaw will lead an annual sponsored walk in Co Mayo commemorating an arduous trek by 600 starving Irish men, women and children in search of food at the height of the famine in 1847.

The walk, from Doolough to Louisburgh, is organized by the charity Action From Ireland, which hopes to raise £7,000 to support projects in Third World countries and will this year be called "The Trail of Tears". Mr Don Mullan, director of the char-

ity, said yesterday that the presence of Chief Roberts was a chance for Ireland to express "our gratitude to the descendants of a caring and compassionate people".

The link goes back to a gesture in 1847 by the Choctaw, who, having suffered catastrophic hardships of their own at the hands of settlers, decided to make a contribution to alleviate suffering in Ireland. In 1831, after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the government of President Jackson forcibly moved the Choctaw to Oklahoma. By the end of the 500-mile trek around 14,000 Choctaw were dead. The Indians have remembered it as The Trail of Tears.

While coping with the trauma the Indians heard of Ireland's famine and their chief ordered a gathering at which the large sum of \$710 was collected and sent to Ireland.

This walk symbolizes the continued suffering of millions of human beings upon our planet today, who die of hunger and hunger-related diseases, caused by the same injustice and human rights violations, which crushed so many Irish and American Indians in the last century. Mr Mullan said.

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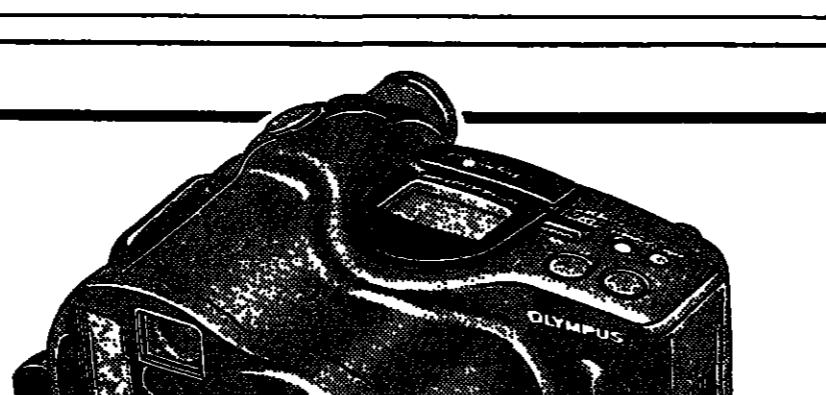
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Methodists divided over ban on active homosexual clergy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

THERE should be no absolute ban on ordaining practising homosexuals, according to a report to be debated by the Methodist Conference next month.

The official commission that compiled the report, published today, says it was deeply divided on the point, with some members wanting a rule that "no practising homosexual or lesbian should be accepted for training for ordination". Others wanted a statement that such people should not be rejected "on the grounds of the expression of their sexuality alone".

Unable to reach agreement, the commission decided to recommend that the Methodist Conference should leave the decision on each candidate's suitability for ministerial training to "the discretion of those appointed to make such judgement". Both sides of the argument

agreed that sexual orientation alone, without reference to activity, was not relevant to a candidate's acceptability.

The Methodist Conference in Cardiff is likely to see conservative churchmen bring pressure for a ban on practising homosexual candidates and on those already ordained.

The issue has surfaced

a number of times, generating forceful debate without being resolved. A handful of Methodist clergymen have declared themselves to be homosexuals, and a considerable body of conservative evangelicals would like to see them disciplined.

The report surveys the biblical, sociological and medical evidence concerning the morality of homosexual conduct. While remarking on the different contexts in which various biblical passages discuss it, the report concludes "the burden of the biblical evi-

dence is to reject homosexuality". But it does not treat it as the most serious form of sin. There are relatively few references to it in the Bible, and nowhere is the subject given extensive treatment.

"This may be because the Bible is not so preoccupied with sexual sins as is society today," the report adds.

St Paul's condemnation of homosexuality in the New Testament probably had pedantry in mind, the report says, but "it is also true that he appears to know nothing of those expressions of homosexuality which involve tenderness, fidelity and affection in the same measure as is possible between heterosexual people."

In spite of the two views expressed, the commission agreed that "no one is wishing to argue that anything goes". All thought there should be certain rules. One view was that "the active homosexual and lesbian is loved as a person but called to repentence and restraint in sexual practice". That implies that physical sexual expression between persons of the same sex is sinful. The other was that "God's love expresses itself in unconditional acceptance of each person as he is, and reaches out to those who are misunderstood or rejected by the establishment of the society of their time".

The report concludes that the Methodist Church has little choice but to try to learn to live with a range of opinions, leaving open the possibility that the matter may be resolved in the future. Mean-

while, church members are invited to study the issues more fully, to "continue the pilgrimage". The report should be considered an interim one, but it asks the Methodist Conference "not to ask the present commission to return to the jury room for further debate".

Values of the law recoil on bishop

By Ruth Gledhill

ONE of the contenders to become the next Archbishop of Canterbury has received a setback in a legal action against the Church of England's paymasters, the Church Commissioners.

The commissioners have decided not to meet the costs of the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, in taking action against them.

Bishop Harries, who like all diocesan bishops is also a commissioner, has said the legal case was meant to be "a friendly rather than a hostile action" and had asked the commissioners to meet his costs. He is seeking a High Court ruling to support his

view that the commissioners had a duty to follow a policy in which Christian values, rather than financial gain, were of overriding priority.

A spokesman for the commissioners said: "Resort to the law is adversarial and there is no such thing as a friendly court action. The bishop asked us if we would meet his costs. Our funds are for the paying and pensioning of clergy, not for meeting the costs of people who choose to take action against us."

A spokesman for Bishop Harries said the bishop will have to find guarantees to cover costs up to £25,000 should he lose.

Hume defends Ó Fiaich

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

PRAVERS were said yesterday throughout Ireland for Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, who died on Tuesday, as Cardinal Basil Hume dismissed critics who, he said, unjustly confused Cardinal Ó Fiaich's dream of a united Ireland with sympathy for the IRA.

Cardinal Hume said the cardinal, an outspoken critic of the British presence in Northern Ireland, had said time and again, both publicly and to him privately, that progress was to be achieved only through orderly democratic process. "To call him the 'IRA cardinal' or bishop is very insulting."

The cardinal died in hospital in Toulouse after being taken ill while leading a pilgrimage to Lourdes. His remains will be flown to Dublin in preparation for a funeral early next week at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ar-

magh, where he had been Archbishop since 1977.

Observers of the Catholic hierarchy in Ireland say a successor may not be chosen for up to a year. The key player is the Papal Nuncio in Dublin, Doctor Emanuele Gerada, aged 70, a Maltese. He will submit three candidates to the Congregation of Bishops in Rome. Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, is also likely to have strong support.

The man considered most appropriate as successor, the Right Rev Cahal Daly, Bishop of Down and Connor, is a former chaplain at Queens University and chairman of the Bishop's Conference Commissions for Youth and Ecumenism. Finally, there is Bishop Brendan Comiskey of Ferns, Co Wexford, who was passed over as a possible Archbishop of Dublin.

Obituary

Inquiry on vivisection practices

By Lin Jenkins

ALLEGATIONS that an eminent scientist flouted the rules governing experiments on animals are to be investigated by the Animal Procedures Committee with a view to improving policing procedures.

Professor Wilhelm Feldberg, aged 89, a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, has ceased his laboratory work after requesting his licence be revoked last Friday. His action came after a dossier of his work over two years, compiled by Advocates for Animals, formerly the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, was sent to Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary. The Home Office regulates animal experiments.

The report, supported by video film taken in Professor Feldberg's laboratory at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, north London, alleges that rabbits were inadequately anaesthetized — an allegation strongly disputed by the Medical Research Council, which funded Professor Feldberg's research.

Professor Feldberg allowed himself to be filmed when Miss Melody MacDonald approached him with a view to writing his biography. She told him the film would be used in lectures.

The Home Office said inspectors had been discussing with the professor for the past year ways to end the research. They had been aware of his "declining skills". Both Professor Feldberg and Mr John Stean, his assistant, have handed back their licences.

Michael and Emma 'most popular' christian names

MICHAEL and Emma are the most popular choice of Christian names, according to a Gallup survey of 50,000 people. Michael was favoured by 51 per cent and Emma by 59 per cent.

Runners up among boys' names were James (47 per cent), Mark (45 per cent) and John (40 per cent), and, among girls' names, Rachel (49 per cent), Rebecca (43 per cent) and Ann (42 per cent). Least popular names for girls were Clementine, Edith, Enid, and Olive, with 6 per cent. Wilfred was bottom of the list among boys with 4 per cent, below Gordon on 8 per cent.

Those surveyed were given a list of 70 names and asked to choose those which they considered popular, as part of a rolling survey of trends. Biblical names and those of

members of the Royal Family, such as Elizabeth (35 per cent), Diana (27 per cent) and William (39 per cent), were highly placed.

"We have not got round to asking about the Kylies and Jasons yet, but we will do," Mr Bob Wybrow, director of Gallup, said. "There are big differences across the generations, but some names that are disappearing will probably return as a kind of nostalgia."

The survey found that more women than men liked James, Richard and William, while men preferred the names Sharon, Susan and Sally. Mary was popular among 48 per cent of those surveyed over 65, but favoured by only 11 per cent of the 35-44 age group. Ann and Elizabeth also scored more highly among older people.

Auction houses band together to oppose orchestrated fiddle

By Sarah Jane Cheekland
Art Market Correspondent

THE musical instrument market is being flooded with fake violins accompanied by convincing fake certificates. The campaign is designed to dupe Japanese buyers who like nothing more than written authentication.

Quantities of fiddles purporting to be by 1920s and 1930s Italian makers such as Pedrazzini and Pollastri — at the lower end of the market — are being sold for £8,000 to £10,000.

Mr Graham Wells, a Sotheby's expert, was fooled until Mr Ted Stollar, his colleague at Phillips called his attention to the deception. Christie's went to the police after selling a fake violin. The provincial

auction houses, according to London experts, are being used as clearing houses.

Mr Charles Beare, of the London firm J & A Beare, said that the problem had come up because of the rise in value of the instruments. Apart from the number detected in London, there was "a rash on the Continent". Mr Beare said he was approached six weeks ago by a client from the Netherlands who brought a violin accompanied by what purported to be a certificate by Pressenda, one of the best known 19th-century Italian makers. "It was nothing to do with Pressenda," he said.

He also recently unmasked a fake Joseph Gagliano violin, thus reducing its value by £30,000 to £3,000. That example was clearly produced by a different faker, he said. It had a bogus certificate from the

leading German firm Hamma, in Stuttgart, produced on paper apparently stolen from the firm. "I have sent it back to Berlin," he said.

No one knows where the fakes are coming from, but there are a number of theories. Top of the list, according to Mr Beare, comes a clan of Dutch gypsies who can "knock up a document in half an afternoon". Mr Peter Biddulph, Christie's adviser, suggests Italian gypsies. "It's just some kids having fun I suppose."

Mr Wells believes the deception is far more sophisticated. "They are not coming from one source. They are using people travelling from abroad. It is going to be coming up increasingly."

One fear is that, as the cataloguing stands, buyers may misunderstand what

they are buying. Mr Biddulph gets over the problem of deciding how to describe a suspect instrument by cataloguing it as labelled "so and so". To the suggestion that this might deceive the inexperienced buyer, he replies: "That's his problem."

Auction catalogues, he says, include lengthy explanations of their catalogue terms, including the varying degrees of authenticity for a given work. (These start with "by J M W Turner" for an absolutely certain attribution, and move through "school of", to "after" a given artist, for the most tenuous attribution). He says he states, literally, what he sees.

• The British artist Francis Bacon failed to break his own world record in New York on Tuesday night, in spite of predictions by Sotheby's that his "Study for a Portrait"

would fetch more than £4 million. It sold for \$5.5 million (£3.2 million) to a European dealer, leaving his record of £3.6 million intact.

The painting — one of the artist's celebrated works of agonized popes sitting in prison-like thrones — was one of a long series of paintings that performed poorly against their published estimates, in a distinct cooling of the market. The painting, "Portrait of Pope Innocent X", was one of a series painted by the artist during the 1950s and acknowledged to be among his most important works. It combines stylistic tributes to the 17th-century Spanish painter Velázquez and Sergei Eisenstein's

film *The Battleship Potemkin*.

The sale totalled \$55.8 million (£33.45 million) with 32 out of 87 paintings unsold.



St James's Park ducks expanding their horizons yesterday as, inside No 10, Mrs Thatcher met Mrs Pruskiene, Prime Minister of Lithuania

Meat firms' directors accused of £570,000 EC subsidies conspiracy

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

TWO British meat firms and their directors struck up an agreement to deceive the European Community over £570,000 subsidies on beef cargoes destined for Africa, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The companies obtained the money by presenting documents showing that the meat was being exported to South Africa, when it was in fact en route to Zimbabwe, the court was told. EC subsidies known as export refunds are available on goods exported to certain countries outside the community. They apply to South Africa, but not to Zimbabwe.

Chone Dredzen, aged 60, of Warwick Square, south-west London, managing director of Combined Foods, Terence Ogborn, aged 45, of Tadworth, Surrey, managing director of Meat Supplies (Wholesale Meats) Ltd; Anthony Ogborn, a Meat director, aged 32, of

Danbury, Essex; and the companies' Giltspur Street, east London and Meat Supplies, of Basildon, Essex, deny conspiracy to evade liability by deception.

Opening the prosecution case, Mr Alan Moses, QC, said the case involved "a criminal agreement" to deceive the EC's Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce in thinking Meatal was entitled to keep subsidies when it was not.

Mr Moses said the EC paid subsidies to companies exporting outside the community to encourage trade. The level of the export refund

was set along with 20 per cent of the value of the export refund. Once companies who had received advance payments gave the EC documentary evidence showing the cargo had been exported correctly, the security was released.

Mr Moses said Meatal received advanced payments for consignments of boneless frozen beef, which was sold to Combined Foods, a company that buys meat from the EC and sells it to countries outside the community. Between November 1985, and May 1986, 12 consignments of meat were shipped from Southampton to Cape Town in 32 containers. The meat was then taken by rail to Bulawayo.

Payments could be made in advance to help companies cash flow, but they would have to produce security. If the exports did not go where they should and there was no subsidy, the security was for-

feited along with 20 per cent of the value of the export refund. Once companies who had received advance payments gave the EC documentary evidence showing the cargo had been exported correctly, the security was released.

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When meat arrived in South Africa it was looked after by a local agent. South African customs stamps were obtained for the EC document showing the apparent import

about 10 hours to cause any problems. The rod is about the size of a large pen.

The authority admitted earlier this week that Dounreay had been closed since April 24 after sodium was found to be leaking from the reactor's cooling system. Investigations into the cause are continuing and the plant may remain closed two more weeks for repairs and safety checks.

The fault was discovered when the smouldering sodium triggered smoke detectors. It was a full week before the reactor had cooled sufficiently to allow an investigation team to examine the fault, which may have been caused by a cracked weld. The authority says sodium is not radioactive and presents no health hazard.

The case continues today.

Runaway husbands blamed for crime

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

HUSBANDS who cause marital break-ups by having affairs or deserting their wives must shoulder a considerable part of the blame for rising crime. Mrs Mary Tuck, former head of the Home Office's research and planning unit, said yesterday.

Addressing a conference on the causes of crime in London, Mrs Tuck said a lot of the problem stemmed from the abdication of men from fatherhood: "Women are increasingly being left to look after their young on their own. The concept of a man staying with a woman until she raises her young has gone. The more that can be done to restore that concept is better."

Mrs Tuck, who retired last month, also suggested that policy-makers should take greater heed of the link between genetics and crime. She did not advocate that crime prevention initiatives should be targeted at the children of offenders. That, she said, could lead only to the offspring becoming "stigmatized" and thus even more likely to offend. There was, however, scope for the Government to reduce the underlying causes of crime, especially as so much offending could be tied to specific social groups and geographical areas.

One obvious need was to improve the provision of nursery education, particularly in crime-prone inner-city areas. Greater help might also be given to families of former prisoners.

Mrs Tuck told the Centre for Policy Studies' conference that offenders were more likely to come from broken homes, to have lower-than-average IQs, to be unemployed or low-paid, to live in poor or rented housing and to have drink or drug problems.

Commenting on her speech, Mrs Zelma West-Meads of Relate — formerly the Marriage Guidance Council — supported the claim that too many fathers abandoned responsibility for their children. Pointing out that more than half of divorced men lost contact with their offspring within two years of their marriages being dissolved, she said: "Too many men are leaving their children behind. Children are more likely to turn to crime if they lose contact with them. She was right that the father is usually the ultimate source of discipline in a family."

The National Council for One Parent Families said most mothers deserted by their partners succeeded in bringing up their children properly.

Plane to succeed Concorde

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE supersonic airliner of the 21st century will carry up to 300 passengers at moderate prices and will cut the London to Tokyo journey in half by flying non-stop, British Aerospace officials predicted yesterday.

Concorde's drooping nose cone, a distinctive symbol of supersonic passenger flight, may be abandoned in favour of more traditional lines. The aircraft would also be longer and heavier.

The details emerged as British Aerospace and Aerospatiale announced in London and Paris plans for a joint £10-million research project aimed at finding a successor to 14-year-old Concorde.

The companies, which have so far been working separately on similar designs for Advanced Supersonic Transport (AST), believe that if such a plane is feasible there will be a

range of 6,500 miles compared with the 3,750 Concorde can go without refuelling. Officials believe the plane could reach Tokyo in six to seven hours. It would have to use engines that could deliver 65,000 pounds of



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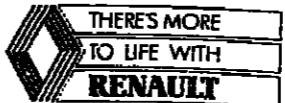
0-62 in just 9.5 seconds. As fast as a 2.5 litre 6 cylinder fuel injected BMW. And what if you didn't want a manual gearbox, would you automatically expect to lose performance?

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Rifkind to assuage angst over poll tax at Scots conference

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

MR MALCOLM Rifkind will today cite Scotland's experience of the poll tax as a way of steadying the nerves of English Tory backbenchers still pressing for substantial changes in the new charge.

On the first day of the Scottish Conservative Party Conference in Aberdeen, the Secretary of State for Scotland will argue that the community charge has not led to any serious slippage in the Tory vote north of the border. He will advise his English colleagues that if they can follow the Scottish example of avoiding major splits and defections over the issue, they can look forward to recapturing the backing of their traditional supporters.

Reminding them of the battering the Conservatives took in Scotland over the

introduction of the charge a year earlier than in England and Wales, he will suggest that now is the time to show some "backbone" in facing their critics. None the less, as anxious Tory MPs south of the border pour over the results of the council elections, there will be many who would be horrified at the thought that they have anything to learn from Scotland, where the Conservative Party, beaten into third place behind the Scottish Nationalists in the council poll, have become an endangered species.

Nor have the Scottish Tories yet succeeded in presenting a totally united front as they gather in Aberdeen. Mr Arthur Bell, chairman of the leftist Scottish Tory Reform Group, has sought to puncture the euphoria generated by the latest council elections and spoken against the shift to the right under the

chairmanship of Mr Michael Forsyth. Mr Bill Walker, the Tory MP for North Tayside, rebuked him angrily, saying his comments on television 48 hours before the poll were "most damaging" to the Conservatives' electoral prospects.

More than 1,000 representatives of local Scottish Conservative associations are expected to attend the three-day meeting, which will end with the Prime Minister's first speech since last week's council elections and which will include contributions from a host of Cabinet ministers. Rank-and-file morale, dented by the Tories' disastrous general election performance in which they lost 11 of their 21 MPs and by dismal opinion poll ratings, has been given a fillip by the council elections, which resulted in only a handful of net losses.

The Tories polled 19.5 per cent of the

vote in last week's regional elections, slightly up on their 1986 figure of 16.9 per cent and quite appreciably higher than the 15 per cent they were given in an opinion poll last month. Add to that another 2 or 3 per cent to compensate for the Tory votes siphoned off by the strong independent presence in the local elections, and the Conservatives are within hailing distance of the 24 per cent they scored in the debacle of 1987.

Labour's 44 per cent in the council elections was in line with their performance four years ago, but well down on their recent poll rating of 53 per cent. It is against that background that Mr Rifkind will argue that the community charge need not be a vote loser for the Conservatives at the next general election. He believes that the council elections provide evidence that the

debate about local government finance in Scotland has matured into a hard-headed comparison between the rival merits of the community charge on the one hand and the alternatives offered by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

He will also maintain that this is an argument the Tories can win, at least with their natural supporters, by pointing to their success in flushing out the Opposition to the extent that they were forced to put a figure on their roof tax. Mr Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish Secretary, went a lot further than his southern counterparts by saying that the average two-earner family would have to pay £487 under Labour's proposals, rather less than the average £612 bill faced by couples paying the poll tax.

Mr Rifkind, who is likely to counsel

against sweeping changes as a result of the Government's review of the operation of the community charge, believes that the Scottish experience is likely to be repeated in England and Wales, with greater scrutiny being applied to the rival alternatives and a firming of the vote among natural Tory supporters. In support of this contention, Mr Rifkind is pointing to the greatly improved support in his Edinburgh Pentlands constituency and Mr Forsyth's Stirling seat.

Unlike the last two Scottish Tory conferences, this one is unlikely to be riven by internal divisions of real substance. This year's conference also marks a break with tradition in that the venue has been switched from the Conservative stronghold of Perth to Aberdeen, an area in which the party used to be strong but lost four seats at the last election.

MPs seek urgent action to raise teachers' morale

By David Tyler, Education Editor

SEVERAL million pounds will have to be found by the Government to improve teachers' morale, provide adequate salaries and bring schools up to a decent standard of repair, according to an all-party committee of MPs.

The report of the Commons Education, Science and Arts Committee, published yesterday, also calls for a general teaching council to supervise and advise the profession — a proposal rejected by the Government because of a lack of agreement among the six teacher unions.

The report says the imposed 8.3 per cent pay deal should be paid at once and not staged, as demanded by the Treasury, and says teacher morale could also be improved if schools were properly maintained and there was better discipline in the classroom.

Shortages

Against the advice of most of the unions that gave evidence to the committee, the MPs decided that specialist teachers in mathematics, science and computing should be paid on a higher scale.

There were 2,500 vacancies in all subjects in secondary schools in 1989 — about 1.2 per cent — and 3,100 vacancies in primary schools, about 1.8 per cent. The committee says, however, that those figures hide real problems. Many teachers were being asked to take classes in subjects in which they were not properly qualified and head teachers often re-organized timetables to cover lessons for which there was no teacher available.

The report says: "It is clear that both hidden and suppressed shortages are common features in many schools." There were particular difficulties in some subjects and in Greater London and the South-east: "Greater London in 1988 had a vacancy rate of 3.4 per cent in secondary schools and 5.3 per cent in primary schools, both figures being over two and half times the national average."

The committee recom-

mends that the London allowances should be increased and extended to the whole of the South-east, and be funded by central government. It also suggests that local authorities might consider paying off the student loans of newly trained teachers.

The Government maintains there are only real difficulties in mathematics, science, and technology. The select committee, however, says: "Vacancy rates are relatively high in computer studies, drama and music. Many schools have difficulty providing properly qualified teaching in mathematics, physics, design and technology and modern languages particularly, but also in religious education, early years education and business studies."

Information

The committee is highly critical of Department of Education figures that suggested the supply of teachers over the next 10 years would meet demand and that morale was high. The report says DES officials were the only people to hold that view and demands that more up-to-date and detailed figures be provided, showing which subjects and which parts of the country were short of teachers.

It adds: "The DES assumes that recruitment to initial teacher training in these subjects will be 20 per cent higher than the target figures for 1989, an assumption we regard as highly optimistic. Major effort will be required by all parties — the Government, local authorities and the teaching profession — to make sure that teaching is a sufficiently attractive career prospect to persuade the right people into the profession in the right numbers."

Prospects

The committee was particularly concerned that senior teachers in "mid-career" faced very poor pay prospects. They reached the top of the pay scale quickly and could not improve their situation if they did not want to become deputies or heads. The report says: "A major concern has been the lack of salary rewards

for the teacher who wishes to remain in the classroom rather than take on an administrative or managerial function. Extra resources should be provided so that incentive allowances and mid-career salaries can be increased in value and can take up a greater proportion of the salary bill without jeopardizing increases in the main scale."

Morale

The committee says that it is important to improve the morale of teachers who believe they are being misjudged and undervalued. The report says high morale distinguishes a good school from a poor one. "It comes from a feeling among the teaching staff that their contribution is appreciated by their head, by parents, local education authorities, government and society in general; it comes from teachers having some opportunity to involve themselves in the conditions of their profession.

"It comes from parents and parent-teacher associations showing a real interest in what is going on in the classroom and in being supportive of the teaching staff, particularly over matters of discipline.

"It comes from clean and pleasant school buildings; it comes from a working day that leaves some time for thinking about pupils and their needs, and from the satisfaction of teaching children who want to learn and seeing the results."

The committee concludes that morale could be improved by better pay and conditions and a genuine effort to treat teachers as professionals. It suggests that could be helped by the setting up of a general teaching council to oversee the profession.

Future supply

Another 50,000 to 100,000 more teachers will be required to deliver the National Curriculum, above the Department of Education's 416,000 estimate, the committee says. Every 10,000 extra teachers needed for the curriculum will add £170 million to the salary bill.

Three crew injured in ship blast

THREE badly burned seamen were rescued after an explosion on a bulk oil carrier 60 miles south-west of Land's End yesterday. A Royal Navy helicopter and an RAF Nimrod took part in the operation to fly the injured crewmen to hospital in Plymouth.

The men were in the hold of the Taiwanese-owned Trave Ore, when an explosion, the cause of which is not yet known, blew off a hatch.

Theft inquiry
Six people who work in the accounts department of Hull bus company, which is owned by the city council, have been arrested by police investigating alleged theft. Four have been released on bail and two are still being questioned.

Water charge
Mid-Sussex Water was sent for trial at Lewes Crown Court yesterday accused of polluting the water supply of the village of West Firle, East Sussex. The privately owned company allegedly allowed diesel oil to seep into wells in the village.

Hard swallow
A woman swallowed her engagement ring to prevent a robber stealing it in Bradwell, Buckinghamshire.

Late opening
Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, was late for the opening of Hedge End station, Hampshire, yesterday because his train was delayed. The BBC's written archives officer, Jacqueline Kavanagh, has been asking for extra accommodation for the past 16 years, and

fail to enter the classroom on qualifying.

A new grant for education authorities should be introduced, based on an index of costs and social difficulties to enable those with difficulties to supplement teachers' pay, for example housing costs;

The Government should establish and publish an evaluation of costs in inner and outer London and in the South-east as a whole.

An allowance should be payable in all parts of the South-east where housing costs are similar to those in Greater London.

The DES should provide more information about the teaching force more quickly;

Schemes allowing schools to run their own financial affairs should reflect the real costs of teachers and allow them to recruit and keep a well-balanced teaching staff.

Appropriately-qualified people with proven ability as mathematics, science and computing teachers should be paid on a high scale;

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مكتبة الأصل

Controls needed on loans to those who are already in debt

By Ruth Gledhill

NEW safeguards are needed to discourage lenders from making loans to people already in debt, the National Consumer Council said yesterday. In a report published yesterday, the council predicted a rise in debt difficulties as more people take out second mortgages to pay for luxuries, and as house prices fall.

The report said lenders should make better checks on people's ability to repay their debts, and seek information about mortgage arrears and secured loans if lenders fail to make proper checks, courts should have the power to write off unpaid debts.

Most people are still able to repay their debts, despite an increase in personal borrowing from £11 billion 10 years ago to more than £43 billion today, excluding mortgages. That could change soon because many people are being lent money that they have little or no hope of repaying, and do not appreciate that they could lose their homes for the sake of a holiday or a new car.

The report *Credit and Debt: The Consumer Interest* examines 10 years of credit and debt in Britain using sources such as the banking industry, building societies, money advice services, the Office of Fair Trading and the Policy Studies Institute. When the council published its first investigation of consumer credit 10 years ago, 3 per cent of survey respondents had credit problems; that number has risen to 10 per cent. However, the evidence suggests that it is the same people using more credit rather than a large increase in new credit users.

The number of households unable to meet their commitments had risen from 1.3 million in 1981 to more than 2 million by 1987. People's debts are becoming more complex and there has been a marked increase in the number of homes repossessed because of mortgage difficulties.

Most people still do not

understand terms such as annual percentage rate and do not shop around for the cheapest rate. As a result, credit charges are higher than they need be and there is little competitive pressure to bring down interest rates.

One of the problems is that the people least able to afford high interest rates are those paying them. Credit use is highest among the better off and people aged 35-45, but people on low incomes who have children are most at risk of running up debts. The average amount of credit owed per household has risen from £600 in 1980 to £2,300. If mortgage commitments are added, there has been a rise from £3,000 per household to £13,000.

The report registered particular concern about home equity loans, which are secured against property and allow up to 80 per cent of the capital value of a house to be converted to credit, often using a cheque book or credit card. It cites an American survey which concluded that home equity loans were the biggest single threat to the financial well-being of consumers, who face a risk of rapid over-commitment or insolvency.

Lady Witcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said: "We want to prevent over-enthusiastic use of credit by discriminating and poorly-informed consumers. Many people are still forced by

necessity to borrow, sometimes on contracts they do not understand and at rates they may not be able to afford."

• Weekly rents for council tenants across England have risen by 16 per cent from April compared with Government guidelines of 10 per cent, the Association of District Councils states in a survey published today (Christopher Warman writes).

The association, representing 295 English non-metropolitan districts, says in its report, *ADC Survey on Council Rents, Housing Subsidy and Capital Expenditure*, that rents would have had to increase by 22 per cent had not many districts been able to cushion the effects of the changeover to the new local government housing finance system by using up cash balances carried over from the old system.

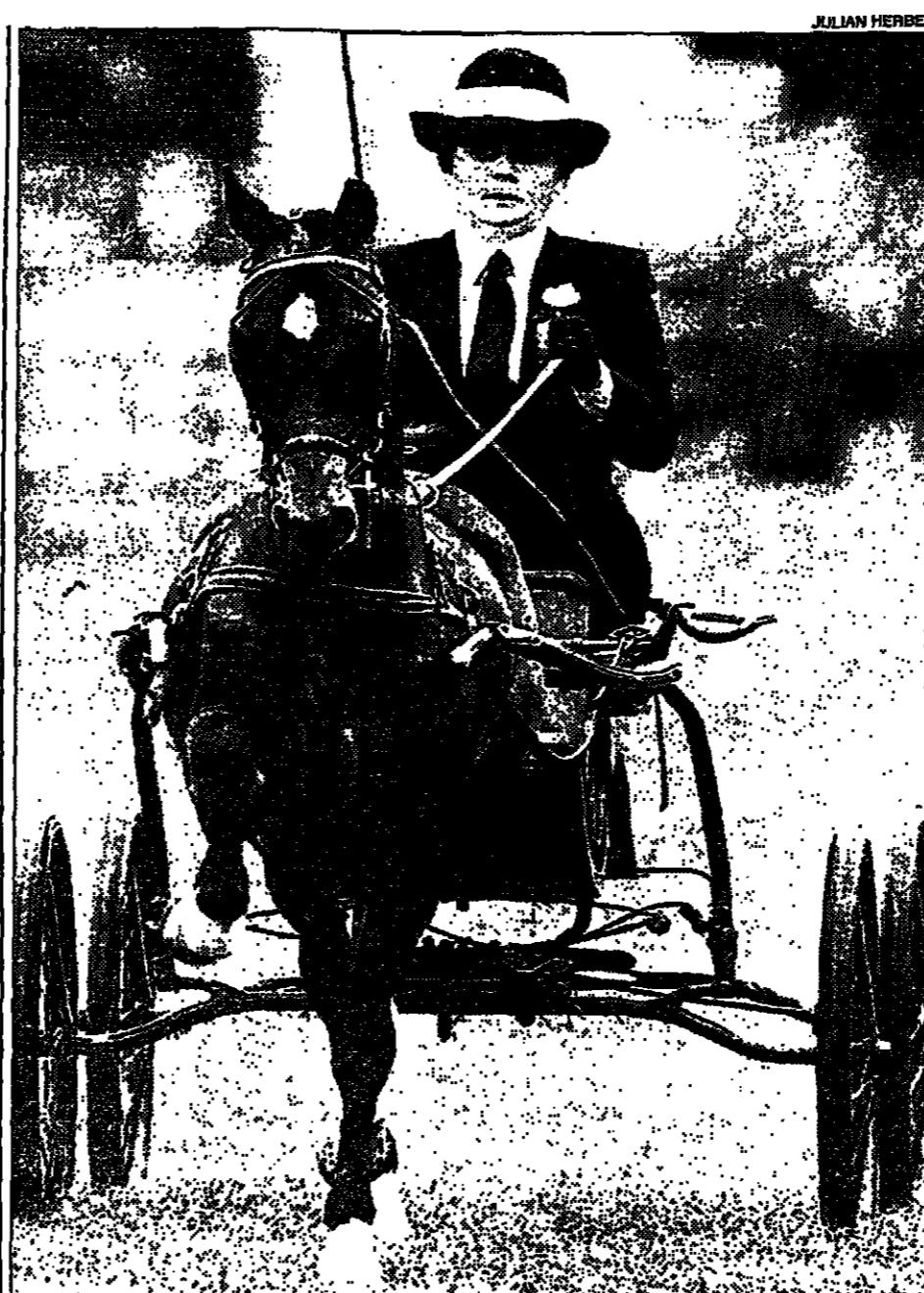
The association suggests that, in future, large rent increases are likely unless the Government agrees to proceed more slowly towards its goal of relating rents to the capital value of housing.

An estimated fall in total capital expenditure from £1.9 billion in 1989-90 to £1.4 billion in 1990-91 and £0.9 billion in 1991-92 is causing concern to the association, which fears the reduction could wipe out most of the remaining building of low-cost social housing.

Households accepted for re-housing by local authorities where main reason is mortgage default or arrears, England and Wales, 1979-88

Year	Households
1979	2,000
1980	2,500
1981	3,600
1982	4,400
1983	4,800
1984	6,300
1985	8,800
1986	10,200
1987	10,800
June 87-88	9,800

Source: Hansard, June 27, 1988, and October 25, 1988



Pauline Peters driving Brookfield Canadian Boy in the Novice Hackney Pony class at Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. The show runs until Sunday

Half of GPs barred from budget plan

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

SHORTCOMINGS in general practice computing and surgery management have whittled down the number of doctors who will pioneer one of the most radical of the Government's health reforms.

An initial application by regional health authorities and the Department of Health suggests that only about half of the 850 practices interested in holding their own budgets and negotiating contracts with hospitals will begin serious preparations for the scheme starting next April.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, however, is understood to be pleased both with the quality of the 400 practices going forward to the preparatory year and with the response from family doctors to one of the most contentious elements in the NHS and Community Care Bill now going through Parliament.

According to Department of Health sources, regional health authorities have had to reject about 450 volunteers because they lacked the computer back-up and practice managers to operate the new system. This will involve practices of at least 9,000 patients being given budgets of around £1 million to cover the costs of diagnostic tests and hospitalization for routine surgery such as hip replacements and cataract operations.

Only practices with computerized medical records

have been able to go forward because this is the only feasible way of rapidly supplying information on GPs' referral patterns — an essential ingredient in calculating the size of the budgets to be spent.

However, the practices that have failed to make the grade this year have been earmarked as a "second wave" of budget holders to enter the scheme in April 1992.

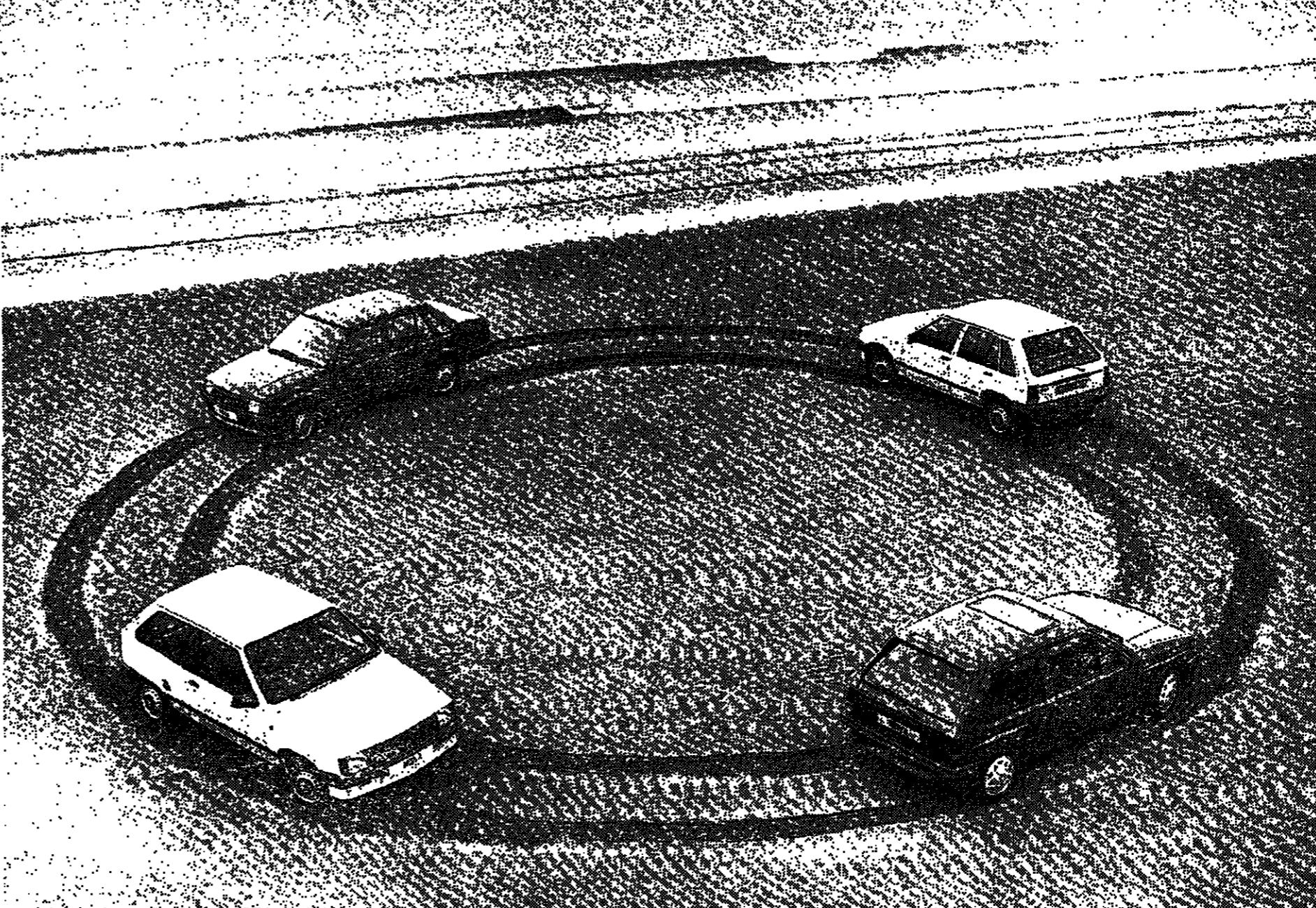
• The Government was yesterday urged to put an end to the "humiliating and insensitive tests" that disabled people have to go through to prove their eligibility for social security benefits (Jill Sherman writes).

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that doctors' assessments of those applying for mobility and attendance allowances led to serious repercussions, including distress, lost benefits and delays.

A report from the association calls for a system of self-assessment backed by additional evidence from carers and advocates with "relevant" experience. That would provide a much better reflection of the claimant's disability and its practical implications, the report argues.

Assessing the Assessors: Medical Assessments for Disability Benefits (Information Retrieval, NACAB, 115-123 Pentonville Road, London N1 9LZ. A4 28p inc)

WITH 0% FINANCE, YOU'LL SOON COME ROUND TO ANOVA.



ANALYSIS

Putting off day of reckoning

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

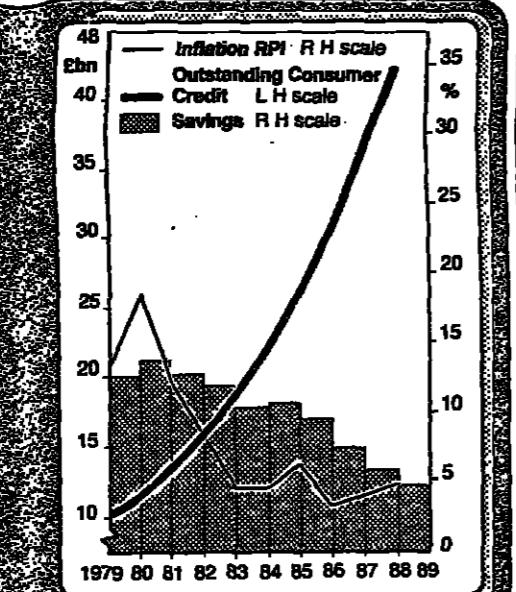
THE average household owed £600 at the beginning of the 1980s and £2,300 by the end of the decade, without taking mortgages into account, according to the National Consumer Council. Mortgages also increased dramatically over the same period.

Interest rates may have risen rapidly over the past two years, but the British appetite for credit has not waned. It has, indeed, been fed by the loan merchants keen to replace the lucrative mortgage business with equally profitable low start loans and second mortgages.

In many parts of Britain, the high interest rates are causing people to take out new loans in an attempt to keep homes they can no longer afford, but cannot sell. Advertisements target those who are struggling to pay their bills. Companies even specialize in lending to those who have county court orders against them and cannot get loans from banks.

Financial institutions still offer instant loans through junk mail. Rates are often higher than banks and building societies, but there is no embarrassing interview for the borrower.

Brokers, building societies and banks are offering to remortgage properties, releasing money to pay other debts and reducing the monthly payments into the bargain. They do this by offering deferred-interest or low-start loans. For anyone struggling to meet monthly payments, low-start loans that allow borrowers to pay off credit cards and other debts are attractive. But the wealth warnings are likely to have little effect on people in debt who believe they can buy themselves time. They think interest rates will come down as suddenly as they went up; that house prices will start to rise and that their problems will be over. Unfortunately for too many, they are just delaying the day when they have to face up to their debts.



You'll be hard pressed to find a car that can go round and about like a Nova. For sheer chic, comfort and manoeuvrability it's unmatched.

And you'll end up going round in circles looking for a cheaper finance scheme.

NOVA 1.0 litre 3dr.				
Total Example	0% Finance	5.9% Finance	12.5% Finance	15.2% Finance
£7,600 Example	12 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
Orde	£1,317	£1,517	£1,717	£1,917
Minimum deposit	£1,128	£1,252	£1,376	£1,499
Interest, hanc*	£11	£45.24	£92.48	£149.61
Monthly repayment	£593.20	£676.91	£760.61	£845.31
Total,redemns	£1,317	£1,742.24	£2,142.48	£2,542.51

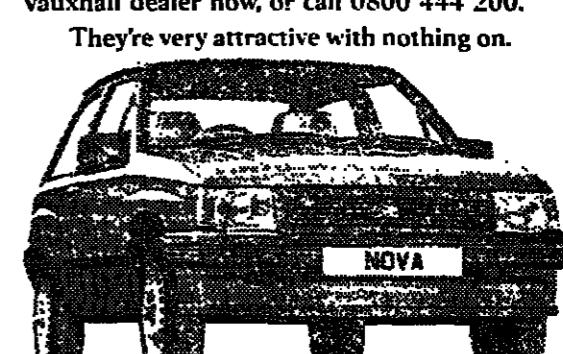
Our 0% rate applies to all Novas, not just to certain models.

Whether it's our two and four door saloons, or our three and five door hatchbacks.

Then there's our unique Price Protection Plan which guarantees that the price you are quoted is the price you pay, if you take delivery within 3 months of your order.

For further information on this and the whole Nova range, make sure you visit your Vauxhall dealer now, or call 0800 444 200.

They're very attractive with nothing on.



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Simply put down the required deposit (or the equivalent trade-in value).

The remaining interest-free repayments can then be spread over the next twelve months.

A more difficult decision is which of the sixteen Novas to choose. There are five different engines and five specification levels alone.

And you'll find that Novas have amongst the very lowest running costs in their class.

There are also some totally new Novas for 1990. The Special Edition Fling, for example, has a sports steering wheel, radio/cassette system and a removable sunroof.

Which, as with all our new cars, can run on unleaded petrol. Unless of course it's our remarkable new 1.5 litre Turbo Diesel.

Although capable of a top speed of 103mph, at a more realistic speed - a constant 56mph - it will do an astonishing 70.6 miles a gallon.

VAUXHALL. ONCE DRIVEN,
FOREVER SMITTEN.

Court clerks sound alarm at controls by Home Office

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Home Office was strongly attacked yesterday by the leader of the justices' clerks in England and Wales as being "obsessed" with control of the criminal justice system to a degree that threatened judicial independence.

Mr Charles Paton Webb, president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, told members at their annual conference in Harrogate that their position was "being undermined".

The criticisms are among the strongest ever made by the usually low-profile justices' clerks, who run the magistrates' courts in England and Wales, and indicate the strength of feeling over Home Office plans to overhaul the administration of the courts.

Mr Paton Webb said the Home Office proposal for a nationalized probation service was likely to be used for the magistrates' courts.

Equivalent plans for a centralized system of administration for magistrates' courts have already been outlined in a Home Office scrutiny report.

Mr Paton Webb said courts must accept financial and management obligations highlighted in that report, but they

must also defend "to our last breath the undermining of constitutional cornerstones threatened by the scrutiny".

• A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday rebuked incompetent defence lawyers who fail to prepare cases on time. Judge Rant, QC, said more and more cases were being adjourned because the defence was not ready. He described the situation as "deplorable". He said: "Defence solicitors had better get used to the idea that cases will come on quickly, and make sure they are ready."

His comments came after he reluctantly granted defence applications in two cases to postpone the trial. The first involved the alleged sexual abuse of a girl aged eight. A defence barrister asked for the case to be adjourned so that solicitors could obtain further medical reports.

The justice system needed a protector who should be holding "a balance, not just a calculator". The initiators of criminal policy had a right to fight their corner, "but they should not be able to influence the way justice is administered either directly, by interfering

in the administration of justice, such as "balance", were being put at risk with Home Office obsession with "control". Instead, if the present trend was pursued, courts would be striving "to cut our criminal case waiting times to achieve harder and harder centrally-set targets or to rival our identically sized nearest neighbouring division 50 miles away in the speed of their fine collection".

The second involved the alleged rape of a woman aged 19. The defence asked for more time to allow for a report on the effect of alcohol upon the defendant.

In both cases the victims had been brought to court to give evidence and then sent away again.

About 1,500 people a year in Britain receive a new kidney, and more than 80 per cent can expect to survive at least five years (Thomson Prentice writes). Rejection of the transplanted organ by the body's natural defences is, however, a significant problem that needs to be tackled urgently. Dr Williams, of Guy's Hospital, south-east London, said:

"The aim is to enable our patients to live longer, healthier lives without the need for a second transplant or a return to dialysis treatment." Dr Williams said: "There can be no real satisfaction until all forms of kidney disease and cancer in some patients. Dr Williams and colleagues are investigating ways to prevent the deterioration of kidneys after transplantation and to reduce the side-effects.

For reasons not fully understood, but which might be linked to the use of anti-rejection drugs, transplantation also leads to an increased risk of heart

disease and cancer in some patients. Dr Williams and colleagues are investigating ways to prevent the deterioration of kidneys after transplantation and to reduce the side-effects.

"The aim is to enable our patients to live longer, healthier lives without the need for a second transplant or a return to dialysis treatment." Dr Williams said: "There can be no real satisfaction until all forms of kidney failure are beaten. It is realistic to hope that we will be able to give a 20-year-old patient a kidney that will last for a natural lifespan."

In spite of dialysis and transplantation, kidney disease is the fifth biggest cause of death in Britain. The projects at Guy's are being supported by the National Kidney Research Fund, which provides £1.7 million a year for research nationally.



Help with paying the Community Charge

**PUT IN A CLAIM FOR
COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFIT BEFORE 27 MAY
AND YOU COULD GET IT BACKDATED TO 1 APRIL**

By now, you should have your Community Charge bill.

You may be able to get some help with paying your bill – a rebate of up to 80 pence in every pound.

Obviously, this will depend on your personal circumstances, your income, your savings and how much the Community Charge is in your area.

But don't be put off claiming. You don't have to be getting any other social security benefits to get Community Charge Benefit.

You don't have to be paying rent. People who own their own home, or who live in someone else's home, can still get this benefit.

And it makes no difference whether or not you are working.

For example, many families with children who take home £150 a week or even more will be able to get benefit. And many pensioner couples will get benefit with an income of £130 a week or even more.

So don't miss out. If you think you might possibly be entitled to benefit, and you haven't already applied, do it now. Not everyone will qualify but you can't lose by claiming.

Ask your local council for a claim form now. Or, if you're unable to call in to their offices personally, you can always ask a friend to do so on your behalf. Alternatively, phone or write to your local council offices for a claim form at once.

You've nothing to lose by claiming and you may well gain.

**Remember –
return your claim form
by 27 May**



ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

This announcement does not apply to Scotland; this backdating provision applied in Scotland after 1 April 1989.

Gas 'tariff trap' costing £100m in wasted energy

By David Young

MORE than £100 million worth of energy is wasted each year by local authorities in England and Wales, much of it because the British Gas price structure means they can save money by burning more gas than they need.

The Audit Commission has found that one county council which had previously had a good record on saving energy now has more than half its social services homes and a quarter of its secondary schools caught in the British Gas "tariff trap".

Under the price structure which British Gas was forced to adopt after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on industrial gas pricing customers can switch to contract gas rates once they start to use more than 25,000 therms a year. They then pay less for their gas than customers on the domestic tariff.

The Audit Commission has found, however, that many local authority buildings while actually using only 20,000 therms a year to maintain adequate services are burning an extra 5,000 therms to qualify for lower contract prices.

The commission calculates that one secondary school which cut its energy consumption by 20 per cent by reducing its gas burn from 26,000 therms to 20,800 therms a year would see its fuel bill increase by £620.

The commission says: "British Gas has recently made several improvements to its new tariff structure, but the fundamental problem of the tariff trap remains a serious impediment to energy efficiency and should be looked at again." British Gas said that the price structure



Mr Davies: Returns of efficiency measures

FISHY number fetches £18,000

A FISH merchant paid more than £18,000 yesterday for the car registration FISHY.

Mr James Jack travelled from Fraserburgh, Grampian, to land his prize catch at an auction at Chelsea Harbour, London, of registrations released by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre.

His winning bid of £14,500 – a total of £18,342.50 with commission and VAT – was one of the highest prices at the auction. "I didn't think I'd have to pay that much but now it's mine for life," Mr Jack said.

A few years ago he contacted DVLC but was told the number was not available. Then he spotted it up for auction. "I didn't think I'd have to pay that much but now it's mine for life."

Another top price was paid by Mr Andrew Wong, an

interior designer, who bid £10,000 – £12,650 in total – to secure COL 1E, his wife Colette's nickname. "She will probably be embarrassed by it," he said.

Bidding had hovered around £9,000 when Mr Wong, from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, impatiently held up both hands and indicated £10,000. His wife would have her number plate on her own car, he said. He already has his daughter's name SOF 1Y on his own.

Mr Wong said he would keep looking for his own AND 1E and LOR 1E for his son.

Phillips hopes to raise a record £3,500,000 from the two-day sale of 617 registrations, the third to be held on the instructions of the Department of Transport.

Ministers doing 'all they can' for the hostages

MINISTERS will do everything they can to bring about the release of all hostages, short of making concessions or striking bargains with those who hold them, Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, said in the Commons yesterday.

He added, during question time, that the policy was guided by a desire for a safer, not a more dangerous, world and that British policy was "on all fours" with that of the United States.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, had asked him to

Romania election concern

BRITAIN was still concerned — although there had been some progress towards free and fair elections in Romania — at the continuing allegations by some opposition parties that they were being unfairly treated during the election campaign. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said during Commons questions.

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gillingham, C) said that it should be made clear to the Romanian authorities that the continuation of reconstruction funds depended on the elections being seen as free and fair.

Mr Waldegrave reaffirmed that not only Britain's support but also that of the European Community and the Group of 24 was "quite clearly conditional on progress and on the legitimacy of the next Government in Romania", and that depended on the fairness of the elections.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that the prospect of the election this month being fair and free was fast disappearing. "There is widespread intimidation of the democratic parties and their leaders, including physical harassment by the communist provisional Government."

There would be no independent scrutiny of the voting or counting procedures in the election, and the army would be taking the ballot boxes away for six days before the announcement of the result. Britain's EC partners should make clear that unless the situation was changed quickly there could not be any aid or support if a fraudulent Government was returned.

Mr Waldegrave said that it was because of such concerns that Britain was paying for 12 extra observers from local government in Britain to observe the elections.

A "formidable duo" of Mr Robert Worsley (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) and Mrs Edwina Currie (South Derbyshire, C) would be there, as would 100 other Western observers.

FOREIGN OFFICE

agreed that there must be no deals which either rewarded hostage-taking or gave incentives to further hostage-taking.

That being so, will Mr Hurd respond to the charges made by Mr Frank Reed, and the Syrian Foreign Minister, that we have not been sufficiently active in the release of hostages?

He asked for an assurance that the Foreign Office was active, day in and day out, in efforts to secure the release of British hostages since British people were saying that, because hostages of other nationalities were being released, they had every right to expect the release of British hostages as well.

Mr Hurd: "They have every right to expect day in and day out efforts on our behalf to that end, and I assure him that those efforts continue."

He had every sympathy with Mr Reed, who had carried himself through a terrible ordeal, but he was not in a position to know anything about the efforts Britain had made on behalf of the British hostages.

He did not regard the Syrian Foreign Minister as an entirely objective observer of these events.

In reply to Mr Harry Barnes (North East Derbyshire, Lab), who raised the matter, Mr Hurd said: "We are delighted that Mr Reed has confirmed that John McCarthy is alive and in reasonable condition. Mr Reed's release indicates that Iran and Syria can, if they wish, secure the release of hostages."

Mr Barnes: "Just what are the efforts the British Government is involved in? Will it stop taking an intransigent stance and seek to develop a position in which it can at least talk about diplomatic relations being es-

tablished with the problematic regimes of Syria and Iran?"

Mr Hurd: "We follow up every lead and use every contact which we think might bring results."

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) raised the case of Mr Roger Cooper, languishing in prison for four-and-a-half years; and the Kurdish affair, where the Iranians maintain the threat to the life of a British citizen, as well as demands on the British Government in that respect that we could not meet. I have made clear that we have indirect contacts. I do not rule out direct contacts if we feel that they were likely to produce results, but the restoration of diplomatic relations is certainly not a matter for us alone."

"We broke with Syria in 1986 on the issue of state-supported terrorism, an issue which remains unresolved. We have had indirect contacts since then with them on behalf of the hostages."

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, suggested that since Britain had broken off diplomatic relations some time ago, with very good reason, with Syria and Libya, now that other governments had acknowledged that they were helpful in the release of hostages, it was time to reconsider.

Mr Hurd agreed that the Syrians had been able to help. "It does not remove the background I have mentioned and, at this stage, the future nature of our contacts with Syria must depend on the prospects of success."

Letters, page 15

Plea for dialogue on Lithuania

INDEPENDENCE

said that the Government was to be supported in its endeavours to encourage the people of Lithuania in their fight for freedom. Did the Government properly recognize the legitimate claims of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia in their quest for freedom?

Mr Waldegrave said that no British government, of either party, had ever accepted the incorporation of the Baltic states as a result of the Ribbentrop-Molotov agreement.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Monygill, SNP) said that the Government should emphasize to President Gorbachov the need to recognize the Helsinki Agreement and the right of people to determine their own political status.

Ashdown boasts of party's 'London electoral asset'

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

MR PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, said yesterday that the local government elections had demonstrated that the Labour Party could not achieve the defeat of Mrs Margaret Thatcher on its own. It had failed to deliver the "killing blow".

Saying that the Liberal Democrat vote nationwide had been 18 per cent, a level of support hailed as a miracle when it was achieved under Mr Jeremy Thorpe at the general election in 1974, Mr Ashdown added: "There is only one third party now, and it is us".

At a press conference at Westminster after detailed scrutiny of the local election votes, he predicted: "Labour's lead is going to be trimmed back noticeably". Labour was suffering from a "London effect", but the Liberal Democrats had shown by their consolidation in Richmond, Sutton and Tower Hamlets that they had a "London asset". The Liberal



Democrat leader said that Labour had advanced only in areas where his party was not strong, it had made progress only where there was a vacuum. "The case remains that we have pulled in votes the Labour Party cannot reach."

Mr Ashdown was at pains to deny the suggestion by com-

mentators that the Liberal Democrat recovery was good news for Mrs Thatcher and her Government, insisting that although the centre party's recovery might help Labour in about thirty seats, there were many more seats where the Alliance had run the Conservatives close in second place in 1987.

Mr Ashdown, whose personal opinion poll ratings have improved by 10 percentage points over the past six months, said that the Liberal Democrats had now recovered from repairing "the terrible damage we did to the party and its image" over the two years after the general election. He added: "Putting the party back together again is now over".

He said that the Green Party had been repulsed in all areas of Liberal Democrat strength, although it had taken 8 per cent of the vote elsewhere.

He conceded, however, that his party had suffered in areas such as Milton Keynes, where they had been running the local authority with Conservatives.

Labour's 'safe marginal'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

MR ROY Hattersley launched Labour's campaign in the Bootle by-election yesterday, saying that the party would treat its fifth safest seat as if it were a marginal.

Opening the campaign in the Merseyside seat, the party's deputy leader said the key issues would be the poll tax, the state of the economy and the record of the Prime Minister and his Government.

He said Labour must produce a good result in Bootle to confirm that the party's support was surging throughout the country and that it was on course to win the next general election.

"The unavoidable and inevitable challenge in a safe Labour seat is to produce a result which demonstrates that Labour is surging ahead all over the country", Mr Hattersley said. "We propose to achieve that result by fighting this election campaign as if the seat were marginal."

He was in Bootle to support Mr Mike Carr, a full-time Transport and General Workers' Union official, who, unless there is a political earthquake, will win the by-election caused by the death of Mr Alan Roberts. Mr Roberts had a majority of 24,477.

Mr Carr, aged 43 and married with four children, chaired the co-ordinating committee sent to run the Labour Party in Liverpool on the orders of the ruling national executive committee.

Mr Carr, who was born in Bootle, told a press conference yesterday that the main issue was the

Party broadcasts attacked

TV CHANGES

AN ATTEMPT to relieve commercial television channels of the obligation to show party political broadcasts failed in the Commons during the second day of the report stage of the Broadcasting Bill.

Mr Timothy Raison (Aylesbury, C), moving an amendment to end the obligation, shared with the BBC, said that party political broadcasts were not the highest of art forms. He would like to see an end to them altogether. He knew of no one who looked forward to seeing them as part of their regular television fare.

Research on the effects of party political broadcasts was undertaken by the Conservative Party, the parties prepared to reveal the outcomes of that research.

His experience of them was standing on St Stephen's Green, outside the Houses of Parliament, in a howling gale trying to persuade voters of the merits of buying council houses. He did not believe he had influenced anyone of the rightness of his cause.

To provide the same party political programmes on five channels could not be said to be fulfilling the intention of the Government to give diversity. Even the Derby and the Cup Final were not broadcast on all channels.

Mr Robert MacLennan, Liberal Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that the importance of party political broadcasts was that they enabled parties to get across their messages unadorned by the editorial comment of broad- casters.

Most newspapers were sympathetic to the Conservative Party which enjoyed a predominance of coverage. Even coverage of the Commons concentrated on the Government of the day.

Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot, C) said that by proposing the end of party political broadcasts, Mr Raison deserved the gratitude of the nation.

The British liked nothing more than slumping in front of the television set from 6.30pm to 11.30, rising only for a call of nature or to switch channels.

In order to obtain ownership of American television com-

Once the news dawned upon them that a much loved politician was to embark upon a five-minute broadcast, a media dynasty, assertion and amplification, they got up to prepare themselves a hot milk drink.

The Tory Party had earned the gratitude of the manufacturers of Ovaltine.

Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin, Lab) said that he would regret the abolition of party political broadcasts as the best means of mass communication. Some Conservatives might argue for paying for commercials on television in the horrendous way which occurred in other countries.

Mr Robert Cryer (Bradford South, Lab) said that most of the national press and the press tended to support the Conservative Party. Political broadcasts might be mocked, but they were a way of helping to retain the balance.

Mr Alistair Darling, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that on balance he thought that party political broadcasts ought to be kept even if they provided a boost for the Ovaltine industry.

If they were going to be shown, they had to be shown everywhere. It would not be right that the BBC should carry them but not other channels.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was important that parties had direct access to television. It was not too high a price for the absence of political advertising which there would otherwise be.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, moved an amendment the effect of which would be to stop Mr Rupert Murdoch and his UK company from holding a licence to provide non-domestic satellite services.

He said that he mentioned Mr Murdoch by name because it would not be right to be mean-minded about these matters.

Mr Murdoch already had a substantial ownership of newspapers and magazines in the United Kingdom, as well as an expanding television interest.

In order to obtain ownership of American television com-



panies, he added, Mr Murdoch had changed his nationality from Australian to American.

As the Bill stood, while others would be allowed international television interests, only they were British citizens, local licences or licences to provide non-domestic satellite services would be removed from the qualification.

It might be purely coincidental that Sky came into that excluded category, but he was suspicious about the intent.

Mr Mellor said that British broadcasting should be owned in the main by British or European Community interests.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Greeks 'must free driver'

The Government came under pressure at question time in the Commons to press the Greek authorities to release Mr Paul Ashwell, the lorry driver arrested while allegedly transporting parts of an Iraqi supergun.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that immense harm was being done to relations between the two countries because of the driver's detention.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the Government accepted Mr Ashwell's innocence and would make clear to the Greek authorities the strong feeling in Britain.

Cannabis haul is bigger

Customs authorities seized 50,715 kilograms of cannabis, with a street value of £166,750,000 last year, according to provisional figures given by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, in a Commons written reply.

Both figures are the highest for any of the past 10 years, and compare with 1988 figures of 44,018 kilograms with a street value of £127,340,000.

New peer

Lord Morris of Castle Morris, formerly Mr Brian Morris, Principal of St David's University College, Lampeter, and chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, was introduced as a Labour peer.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister; Broadcasting Bill, third reading; Private Bill.

Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, seventh day.

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You can make withdrawals at any time. To avoid losing any interest just give us 90 days notice or leave £10,000 in your account after withdrawal. This of course means you will not earn the bonus. Withdrawals can be made without notice. You will however lose both your bonus and the equivalent of 90 days interest on the amount withdrawn.

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ABBEY NATIONAL

Soviet leadership puts on unity show at Moscow parade

From Mary Dejersky, Moscow

LOOKING down the expanse of Gorky Street towards the red walls of the Kremlin yesterday morning, it was possible to imagine Moscow in the grip of a military coup. This broad shopping street was covered for its complete length with troop carriers, tanks and armoured cars. Soldiers directed the few pedestrians, checking passes at every crossroads.

Outside the immediate vicinity of the Kremlin, access to central Moscow was cut off by police and army officers patrolling shoulder to shoulder. Even on Gorky Street, however, the occasional shop was open and people were buying newspapers as usual at the kiosks. There was the same strange mix of abnormality and normality that reportedly accompanies the most surgical of military takeovers.

Half an hour later, on Red Square itself, the Kremlin clock struck 10, the massed bands played, the cannon boomed in the background and the bells of the Kremlin churches rang out in a cacophony which suggested the discord reputed to exist between

Gorbachov 'retaining firm grip on power'

By Michael Kniipe

A CONFIDENT assessment of President Gorbachov's hold on power was given in London yesterday by Mr Georgi Arbatov, a leading political analyst and a deputy of the Supreme Soviet.

"Mr Gorbachov is in a pretty strong position and I don't see him having to face any direct challenges," said Mr Arbatov. "He has serious problems on his hands — the major thing is the economic reform process — but if he's even moderately successful with this, he'll be OK."

Mr Arbatov, the former head of the Institute of United States and Canada Studies in Moscow, discounted Western speculation that Mr Gorbachov was facing a threat to his authority from the mili-

tary. There was no struggle between the military and Mr Gorbachov, he said. The struggle was between supporters and opponents of *perestroika*, and this was occurring within the military as it was everywhere else.

Asked how useful or effective Western support was for Mr Gorbachov, Mr Arbatov said the West supported its own interests.

Mr Arbatov predicted that political power would be concentrated in the President's Council, leaving the Council of Ministers to run the economy. Control of defence, foreign and interior affairs, and the KGB had moved to the President's Council, and control over the Central Bank would move there too.

the party and state leadership, on the one hand, and the military on the other — a discord supposedly personified by President Gorbachov, who is also the Communist Party's general-secretary, and the Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov.

In the week before yesterday's parade much was made of military discontent with President Gorbachov's reform programme — from a report that one unit had mounted a show of strength against Mr Gorbachov in February to an apparent media consensus that officers had sat "stonily-faced and silent" as the President spoke of top-level dissatisfaction within the military and called for it, too, to be subject to reform.

The first report is still a matter of conjecture and interpretation. The second is not true. President Gorbachov was not heard out in "stony silence" at the Bolshoi Theatre on Tuesday night. He was heard with a good deal of sympathy, especially when he enumerated the military leaders killed or repressed by Stalin and condemned Stalin's

blindness about Hitler's preparations for war.

Applause, at times a little limp, and murmured approval punctuated his address. His speech was well-tailored to his audience and his call for reform of the military — an aim he presented unambiguously in his inaugural address as President — was muted and careful.

Military officers of several

generations relaxing in Gorky Park yesterday described the speech as the most sympathetic to the Army Mr Gorbachov has ever made.

It was tempting, but always too simplistic, to see yesterday's parade as a sop granted by the state leadership to the military top brass to keep otherwise unhappy officers happy. It may be more accurate to see it as an attempt by the two sides to present a united face to the Soviet public and the world. It should not be assumed that this unity is for presentational purposes only.

President Gorbachov's lengthy speech on Tuesday evening and Marshal Yazov's short address at the Victory Day parade yesterday showed a reformist leadership and an established Army with a proud tradition doing their best to give the other the benefit of the doubt and reach a public accommodation about their priorities and objectives.

There is indeed dissatisfaction within the military for well-known and predictable reasons, chief among them the cuts in defence allocations, the "retreat" from Eastern Europe and the plight of demobilized officers and service families evacuated from trouble spots in the Soviet Union.

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For whatever reason, Presi-

dent Gorbachov and the military leadership appear to have decided that they must — and can — work together.

WITH Lithuania's supplies of oil due to run out in 20 days, Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, left Downing Street yesterday convinced she said, that Mrs Thatcher would not remain on the sidelines in the dispute between Moscow and Vilnius.

She said she made no specific requests of Mrs Thatcher, but expressed the hope that the British leader would use her good relations with President Gorbachov to resolve the dispute.

Mrs Thatcher gave no spe-

cific undertakings, the Lithuanian leader said, but there were several ways in which she could help in seeking a solution to the crisis and she would choose the method that was best for her.

Whitehall sources said that Mrs Thatcher was more optimistic after the meeting that a way forward could be found. Both prime ministers had agreed, they said, that it was necessary to find a prac-

tical solution to the issue of Lithuanian independence while preserving the gains made in East-West relations. This should be resolved through discussions and a solution found which would be satisfactory to both sides.

Mrs Prunskiene is on a high profile tour aimed at drumming up greater support for the Lithuanian cause. She arrived here after seeing President Bush in Washington and left this morning for Paris where she hopes to meet President Mitterrand.

Speaking at a press conference after her Downing Street meeting, Mrs Prunskiene said as a result of Moscow's sanctions, Lithuania would run out of oil in 20 days and the situation would become critical by May 25.

At that point light industry and transport and the economy in general would come to a halt. However they had taken the precaution of building up reserves and hospitals and schools would be given

priority. It would be impossible for Lithuania to rescind its declaration of independence because the Lithuanian deputies had been elected on a mandate to achieve independence.

But what they could do, said Mrs Prunskiene, would be to suspend the laws passed since the declaration which would be in accordance with a formula presented by President Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor. Her conversations with

Mrs Thatcher had convinced her that this position was acceptable to the British leader also.

Asked what would happen after May 25, Mrs Prunskiene said she still hoped that the situation could be resolved in discussions with Moscow before that date. She described the actions of Moscow as cynical and said they would have a chain reaction in Latvia and Estonia and would harm the Soviet Union itself.

UK sympathy for Vilnius

By Michael Kniipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

Russian studies in 'serious' decline

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

TEACHING of Russian and East European studies in British universities is "seriously inadequate" and could lead to domination of the field by the US, France and Germany, according to senior academics.

Their findings were disclosed by Sir Bryan Cartledge, the former British Ambassador to Moscow, in a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs. He also attacked Britain's lack of preparedness to meet economic opportunities arising from the opening up of the Soviet Union.

British companies would be "seriously disadvantaged" unless the Government gave higher priority to advising them on trading in the Soviet Union during the difficult transitional period following the collapse of the old order.

Sir Bryan, now Principal of Linacre College, Oxford, said that the Government had

commissioned an assessment of the academic situation after strong criticisms by the Commons foreign affairs committee. He took part in a review of 32 universities, colleges and polytechnics which found that the provision was "seriously inadequate" both for the national need and for student demand, which in some cases had tripled.

The review found that improvements could be made for £9 million spread over 14 years. After an earlier report in 1979, which led to the closure of Russian and Slavonic departments in 10 British universities, the situation "can... be corrected only by positive intervention", he said.

"We were and are concerned that if the situation... does not change, quickly, a whole field of learning and intellectual activity... will be the monopoly of... America, France and Germany."

Not just the odd word.

THE
Europe

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6 PAGES, EX

Expert finds adult Aids epidemic in Romania

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

DISTURBING new evidence has emerged that Romania is suffering a serious spread of Aids among adults in addition to the paediatric epidemic uncovered after the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, who decreed that all statistics on the disease were "state secrets".

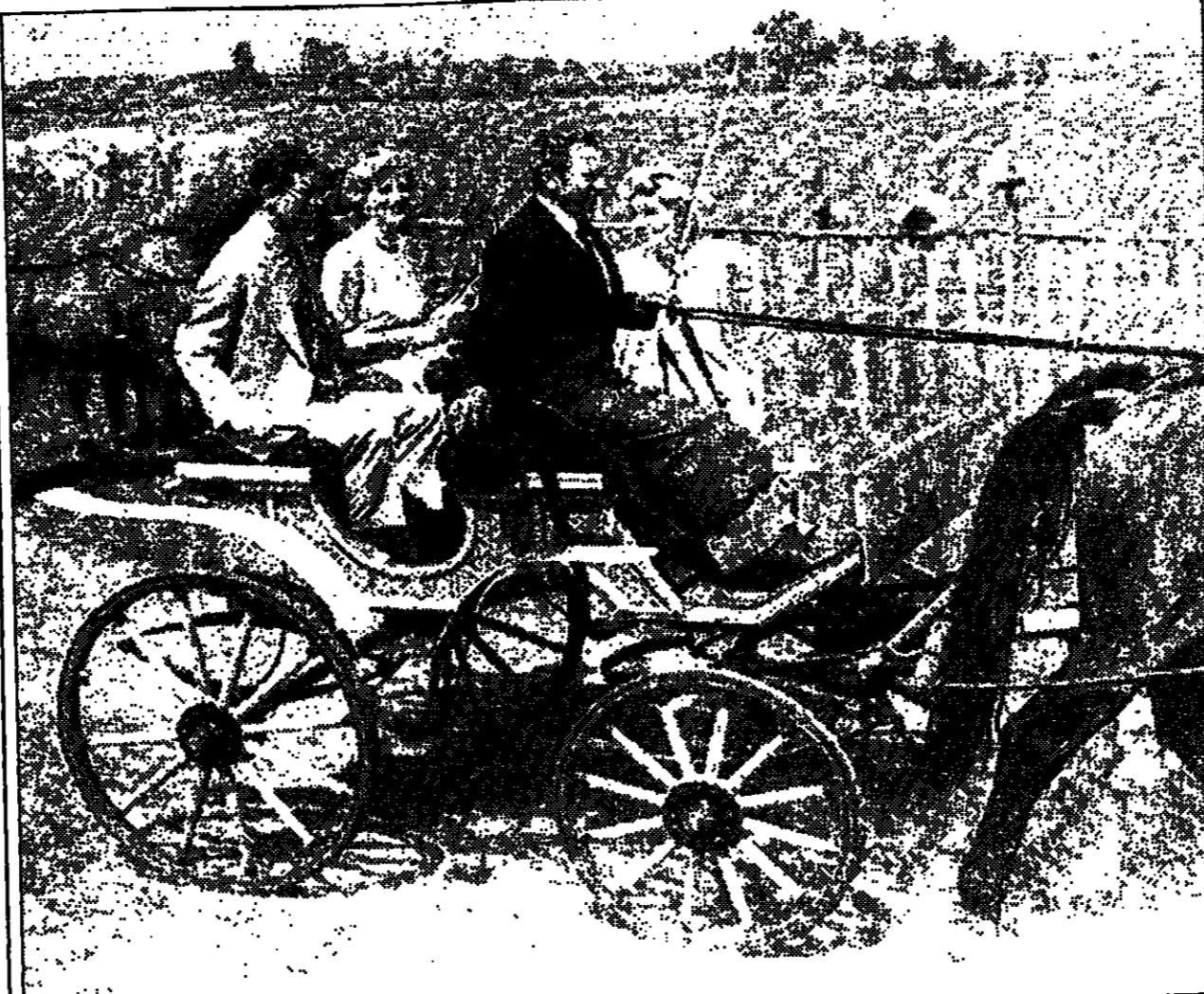
The discovery comes after years in which communist-run Romania lied to world organizations about its alleged non-existence of Aids, always depicted in the official media as a disease afflicting capitalist societies. Only now is the horrific nature of the cover-up being exposed.

In an interview with *The Times* Dr Jacques Lebas, the leading French Aids expert who helped confirm the original epidemic among Romanian children, disclosed that the first tests just completed among a random sample of 7,000 adults in Romanian hospitals showed that 40-0.6 per cent - were HIV-positive.

Dr Lebas said after a four-day visit: "It has now been discovered that there is an adult Aids epidemic as well. This is very serious news for the country, and will require an urgent strategy to be drawn up by the authorities to counter it."

The doctor, president of the voluntary group, Medicins du Monde, and one of the world's leading authorities on the Aids disaster in Africa, said that, most unusually for Europe, there were signs that the Romanian epidemic was predominantly affecting heterosexuals as it had in the worst-hit African nations.

The French team says it is too early to say with certainty the extent of the disease among ordinary Romanians, as more tests are needed. Extrapolation of existing statistics gives 576 adults per 100,000 in the 23 million population as HIV-positive. "In one infectious diseases hospital I visited, there were 60 children suffering from Aids, and five adults," he said. "All the adults were young, overcrowded orphans."



Plain talk: The Prince and Princess of Wales taking a ride in a buggy at Bugac on the Hungarian plains

Big rise in East German jobless

From Ian Murray, Bonn

THE number of unemployed in East Germany rose sharply and the number of vacancies fell last month as the predicted shake-out of unproductive workers gathered pace. Officially, there were no unemployed at all under communist rule six months ago.

Now there are 64,948 registered, an increase of 26,635 on March, and 48,858 are drawing the dole. The number of jobs on offer dropped by over 10,000 to just 73,558.

The figures, announced by the official ADN news agency, show that workers of all categories are losing their jobs, with around 12,000 having qualifications, another 36,000 skilled and only 16,000 unskilled. Around 1,000 have started retraining so far.

The rapid introduction of a free market economy is therefore taking its toll even before the massive investment expected to follow the planned

economic and currency union on July 2. Gloomy predictions already suggest that the phasing out of old production methods and the introduction of new assembly lines by Western companies is likely to cause massive unemployment, which could reach four million before the investment begins to create new jobs.

The economy has been slowing down significantly since the old communist regime was toppled. The motivation to work seems to have dwindled, in part because people worry that currency union will bring soaring inflation in its wake, as subsidies are eliminated without any compensation in pay packets. Many just do not concentrate on what they are doing, carried away by the excitement and uncertainties of their new democratic freedom. The result is that, in the first quarter, industrial production fell by

4.7 per cent and construction dropped by 14 per cent.

Faced with the prospect of unemployment and falling living standards, East Germans are continuing to leave for the West at the rate of around 4,000 a week. So far this year,

expectations are that East German industry will have to endure a bleak period with wholesale layoffs in industries which are long overdue for mechanization. There are, for example, 42,000 brewery workers now, but the number is likely to drop by 80 per cent.

Facing up to Western competition will prove difficult, if not impossible, for many industries. Manufacturers of consumer goods such as cars, washing machines, shoes and clothes cannot match the range, quality and price of Western products and are therefore likely to have to close down.

Trabants, the two-stroke, environmentally unfriendly car which East Germans patiently waited up to 10 years to purchase, are finding no buyers.

People with the money are preferring to pick a second-hand Western make.

Gift of Nagy medal for Prince

From Alan Hamilton
Budapest

THREE veterans of the 1956 Hungarian uprising who asked to meet the Prince of Wales yesterday presented him with a bronze medallion commemorating their hero, Imre Nagy, the executed Prime Minister.

Survivors of the revolution, brutally put down by Russian tanks, have formed the Committee for Historical Justice to spread the truth of that year's events, long suppressed under Hungary's former communist regime, and to honour the memory of the 400 who were executed for their part in the abortive bid for freedom. The committee hopes to erect a statue of Nagy in Budapest, and is raising money for a memorial to the others who died.

The Prince met Mrs Judit Maletz, widow of the then Hungarian Defence Minister who negotiated with the Soviet Army to withdraw their tanks from the capital in November, 1956, and who was arrested when he went to the Soviet military headquarters to sign the agreement. He was tried and executed two years later.

Mr Laszlo Regeczi, who also met the Prince, was an employee of the British Embassy who smuggled the manuscript of Nagy's book exposing the evils of communist rule out of Hungary for publication in the West. He was tried and spent six years in prison.

"I could not be happier at recent events in Hungary," Mr Regeczi said. "We fought for freedom in 1956, and only now have we witnessed the final victory of the revolution, although by other means. The people who claimed to be the vanguard of the working class proved to be a failure; they ran us into the ground. Democracy will succeed in Hungary, but our ruined economy is a different matter; we feel like passengers on a sinking ship."

The Prince said he was honoured to accept the square bronze medal, which has also been presented to President Bush and President Mitterrand on recent visits to Hungary, and to President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

Liberals arrested in Kuwait

KUWAIT THE pro-democracy movement in Kuwait was in disarray yesterday following the arrest of Dr Ahmed al-Khatib and seven other politicians seeking to reconvene the Kuwaiti parliament dissolved four years ago (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Dr al-Khatib was arrested while addressing a meeting which was declared illegal, and the others, for refusing to heed a warning to end it. There is rising tension over a controversial government plan to call elections on June 10 for an interim parliament with limited powers.

Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, wants it to advise on the shape of Kuwait's future democracy. At least 30 former deputies opposed to the Emir's project launched a campaign last year to try to revive the parliament dissolved in 1986. They have announced that they would boycott the June election.

Unesco staff stage protest

PARIS - About 400 staff stopped work for two hours to demonstrate outside a board meeting at Unesco Paris headquarters, saying that the organization had reached a constitutional crisis due to a \$6 million (£3.7 million) overhaul announced by the Director-General, Señor Federico Mayor in February. The 10-day meeting will discuss Señor Mayor's defence of his reform.

Staff criticize Señor Mayor for creating 40 top posts at a time when the agency's budget should be cut. A recent auditor's report said senior officials were overpaid and given illegal perks, while former employees were brought out of retirement to do their old jobs. (Reuters)

French break rail record

PARIS - France's high-speed TGV train broke its own world rail speed record yesterday with a run that topped 320 mph, a spokesman for the SNCF national railway said. The new record was set on a TGV Atlantique track near Tours in central France by the train that established the previous record of 302 mph on December 5 last year. (Reuters)

THE EUROPEAN

EUROPE'S FIRST NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

No. 1 WEEKEND MAY 11-13, 1990

Europe's first national newspaper

Europe has begun a revolution greater than any in its history. This weekend, in the Cold War's last days, Britain, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Turkey, Malta, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, and the Soviet Union will all

have met at Malta hoping to grasp and understand the colossal changes now taking place throughout Europe.

Arab show of force marks further intifada milestone

From Richard Owen, Ramallah, occupied West Bank

THE cars were still shuddering as we came out of the hotel. Round the corner, police were already interrogating the Arab staff; but no one, it seemed, could identify the attackers.

"They came with axes and petrol bombs, smashed the windows of the cars and set them alight," one witness said. "It all happened in a flash." Description? "They all wore masks — the keffiyeh (head-dress) wrapped around their faces."

The *intifada* yesterday entered its 30th month, marked by a general strike in the occupied territories called jointly by the underground leadership of the Palestinian revolt and Hamas, the banned Muslim fundamentalist organization.

For much of the outside world the uprising has slipped from view two and half years on. Many wrongly assume it has either died out or been reduced to the kind of sporadic disturbances which characterized Palestinian unrest in the 20 years from 1967 to 1987. In reality, the *intifada* has taken hold to the point it is routine, part of the everyday fabric for Palestinians, Israelis and foreign residents alike. To

some extent, Israeli forces have succeeded in containing the revolt and reducing casualties.

The underground leadership of the *intifada*, moreover, appears divided. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the more radical factions, has begun issuing its own instructions in separate leaflets — a serious breach of the principle of "unified leadership".

The Palestinian population itself seems divided on how to proceed, and the response to some recent strike calls has been patchy. In addition, there is widespread unease over the vicious killing by Palestinian extremists of alleged Arab "collaborators" with the Israelis. In one recent case a 40-year old Arab in Gaza, whose only apparent crime was to work for the Israeli bus company, was knifed to death after refusing to "confess" publicly to a "united leadership".

These gruesome murders have cost the Palestinians much of the moral support they enjoyed from the West at the start of the revolt. *Intifada* leaders are aware that the uprising no longer dominates Western television screens. In part, this is the Palestinians'

With the political right in Israel on the rise, some Israelis — notably the powerful Orthodox religious parties — are demanding "tough action" by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, to suppress the *intifada*. Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, is a vocal proponent of such a crackdown. Backed by senior figures in the Shamir Government, militant Jewish settlers have grown increasingly confident, taking over a series of properties in the predominantly Arab old city of Jerusalem.

Labour coalition accord

Jerusalem

IN THE face of opposition from "doves" on the party's left wing, the Israeli Labour Party leadership yesterday decided in favour of joining a new national unity coalition with the right-wing Likud party, provided Likud agreed to "take the peace process forward" (Richard Owen writes).

The decision was seen as a victory for Labour hawks led

by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Defence Minister. But there was no sign that Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, and transitional Prime Minister, intends to invite Labour to form a broad coalition of the kind which collapsed in March after 15 months because of disagreements over the Middle East peace formula put forward by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

Lebanese cleric rules out a swap for Sheikh Obeid

From Juan Carlos Gummucio, Jibchit, southern Lebanon

UMM MUJAHED Obeid apologizes profusely. Her two youngest children are playing noisily in the living room of the house. There is no coffee. And she does not wish to talk about hostages. Not even when her husband, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Shia Muslim cleric kidnapped by Israeli soldiers nearly 10 months ago, is one of them.

"Sorry," she says, as she reaches for Mshabha, her three-year-old son who has climbed onto a coffee table below the portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini, the main feature of the room.

Does little Mshabha or his four brothers and sisters know that their father was seized at gunpoint and is being held against his will? "Sorry. I do not want to say anything. It is better like this." There is a pause. "I just hope all of the hostages, all of them, will go free one day."

It takes a brief walk across the village to the house of Sheikh Obeid's successor to realize how weak Umm

Blockade imposed by Aoun

From Our Correspondent west Beirut

AFTER three consecutive days of savage shelling, Lebanon's inter-Christian war spilled violently onto the Mediterranean coast yesterday when General Michel Aoun imposed a sea blockade to prevent the Phalangist Lebanese Forces militia from receiving ammunition and supplies.

As General Aoun's artillery concentrated fire on the coast of Beirut and the Jounieh area, Mr Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces commander, instantly retaliated with rocket attacks on units and residential districts under control of the Army.

Thousands of civilians who are still living within the devastated Christian enclave were trapped in underground shelters as shells and rockets rained down on the ruins of their homes.

Nearly 40 people have been killed and at least 80 have been wounded since the artillery battles intensified on Monday in what seemed to be the prelude to a decisive confrontation in the three-month war.

Conservative estimates say that nearly 1,000 people have died since General Aoun declared war on his one-time allies in an attempt to become the undisputed leader of the Christian community.

Obeid's hopes really are. Sheikh Ahmed Ali Taleb is the temporary imam of Jibchit and lives in a house with a panoramic view of the village, the minaret of its new, white mosque towering above olive groves and rooftops. He is an urban young man with a only weapon."

And the Israelis, too, used it. Early on Friday, July 28, 1989, an airborne unit of Israeli commandos landed in Jibchit and seized Sheikh Obeid and two of his aides, a cousin, Ahmad Obeid, and Majid Fahis. A neighbour who came out to find out what was happening was shot dead.

Sheikh Taleb brushes aside the Western allegations that Sheikh Obeid was the mastermind in the abduction of US Marine Colonel William Higgins in February 1988. "He is man of religion" he insists. "We demand his immediate and unconditional release. No deals, no exchange. We want Sheikh Abdel Karim first."

• JERUSALEM: Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, the chief of the Israeli armed forces, apparently hardening the official position, said yesterday that the three Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon must be returned before Israel would swap its Arab prisoners for Western hostages.

"I imagine we will be happy to swap all those held in hell will be freed, including Americans and Israelis, and we will free those we hold," General Shomron said in an Israel Radio broadcast. "But clearly first of all we will want to see our captives here at home," he said. (Reuters)

When he is reminded that nor did the British, Americans, French, West Germans and others who were abducted by Shia Muslim extremists in Beirut since 1985, he smiles. He obviously sees a difference. "I wish you foreigners

to apply for a passport to travel abroad. "It is our constant duty to enhance the care of human rights," he told a session of parliament in Tirana in detailing the reforms on Tuesday. His speech was published yesterday by the official ATA news agency, which said the changes had been approved.

In a series of legal changes that further opened the once-reclusive Balkan state to the outside world, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Manush Myftiu, also announced plans to give all Albanians the right

to travel abroad. "It is our constant duty to enhance the care of human rights," he told a session of parliament in Tirana in detailing the reforms on Tuesday. His speech was published yesterday by the official ATA news agency, which said the changes had been approved.

The reforms, the most far-reaching in the human rights field since the communist state was founded in 1946,

were published two days before the United Nations Secretary General, Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, visits Tirana. But they were cautious compared to the other radical changes in Eastern Europe.

They were announced at the same parliamentary session at which the Prime Minister, Mr Adil Carcani, declared Albania's readiness to join the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. (Reuters)

Cheney defends nuclear strike option

From Martin Fletcher
Kanawha, Canada

AS NATO defence ministers yesterday began a two-day meeting on the Western alliance's post-Cold War nuclear posture, Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, set the scene for a heated debate by insisting the 25-year-old "flexible response" strategy for protecting Western Europe must remain unchanged.

He said that, despite the Warsaw Pact's collapse, Nato had to maintain both the right and capacity to launch a nuclear first strike in response to a conventional Soviet attack and had to deploy new Tactical Air-to-Surface Missiles (TASMs) in West Germany and elsewhere.

Although President Bush announced last week that the US would not modernize its short-range, ground-based nuclear weaponry in West Germany, that had "no effect" on Washington's plans to deploy TASMs, he said.

Mr Cheney's statements, which British officials supported, ran counter to the strongly-held view of West Germany and the smaller Nato countries, including Belgium and The Netherlands, which are opposed to the deployment of TASMs on their soil and believe that the Warsaw Pact collapse warrants a thorough re-evaluation of the alliance's nuclear strategy.

West German officials believe that the deployment of TASMs — capable of striking the Soviet Union — would send quite the wrong signal to Moscow which is presently fighting a strong rear-guard action against the idea of a united Germany in Nato.

The Americans plan to try to avoid debate on TASMs at this meeting, in a snow-covered Rocky Mountains resort, of the Nato Nuclear Planning Group. But with the meeting opening with an unusual "open discussion" of the Western alliance's policy in the light of recent events in Eastern Europe, that appeared a forlorn hope.

Although Mr Bush said last week that the Nato summit in July should instigate the broad review of alliance strategy, Mr Cheney made it clear that this should concentrate not on the basic doctrine of flexible response but on the level of forces. Like the President, he emphasized that there had to be a continuing nuclear component in the alliance strategy.

He told reporters that "at this point I don't see any need to change the basic fundamental strategy" of the alliance, which involved the deployment of US troops in Europe, a single military command structure, and the potential first use of tactical nuclear weapons, backed up by strategic nuclear weapons, if the Soviet Union invaded Western Europe. Mr Cheney said he was "not eager" to remove the flexible-response strategy even after the expected completion of a treaty this autumn which would end Moscow's huge superiority in conventional forces.

• Troop pullout: The Soviet Union believes that all foreign troops stationed in Europe should be withdrawn by 1995-96 as part of a new security framework for the region. Mr Oleg Grinevsky, the Soviet Ambassador to the conventional arms talks in Vienna, said yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

He described as a key step the agreement, announced in Ottawa in February, to restrict US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000.

But he insisted that the developments in Europe required deeper cuts in troops and armaments. The senior Soviet arms negotiator was giving the inaugural Mountbatten Lecture at Southampton University.

Supply ship bids fond farewell to Napoleon's island of exile

From Alastair Guild, St Helena

RMS St Helena sets sail today from Avonmouth on what is likely to be its last voyage to the remote Crown colony whose name it carries. It is to be replaced on its regular run by a new ship, twice the size, being built in Aberdeen.

Captains Martin Smith and Bob Wyatt take it in turns to command the eight-week round trip, which includes Cape Town on the way back. After many years of sailing the West African coast, they both vividly remember their first sight of the island's sheer cliffs, 12 years ago.

I know how Napoleon must have felt when he saw the island for the first time in 1815," says Captain Smith. "From a distance, it stood like an impregnable fortress," recalls Captain Wyatt. "As we got closer, it was the layered rock, the vivid changes in colour which we noticed. Then, as we drew yet nearer, we caught a whiff of the smoke

from the islanders' wood fires."

The smell of wood smoke may not be as strong as it was — many islanders now have electricity, and Calor Gas cookers. But their welcome for the 27-year-old RMS St Helena seems as enthusiastic as that accorded to the regular steamship sailors when they began in the middle of the last century.

St Helena, one of only 13 remaining Crown colonies, is 4,500 miles from the UK and 1,694 miles from Cape Town, well away from any shipping lanes. The nearest airstrip is 703 miles away on Ascension, and the island is remote enough to have its own unique bird species, the wirebird. So the St Helena represents the island's only regular contact with the outside world.

"There's always somebody looking out to sea, to catch the first glimpse of the ship," says Captain Wyatt. In the island's

capital and seat of government, Jamestown, the atmosphere is totally transformed on "ship day".

Most of St Helena's 6,000 population flock in from all parts of the 10 x 6 mile island, on foot, by motorcycle or in one of the 1,800 registered cars or lorries. There is fierce competition for the town's 200 parking places.

However late the ship arrives, the post office will stay open into the night to hand out mail, on average 130 bags per voyage, some bringing money from relatives overseas — two of the largest communities are in Southampton and Portsmouth. The stores, which range from picnics and cans to baked beans and cream crackers, are snapped up from the town's shops in a day or two. The ship also carries livestock, banknotes, and when necessary, a travelling judge.

The passenger list is published in advance in the *St Helena News Review*, the island's newspaper. Anyone interested will be asked to talk on the local radio station, which has featured two British ambassadors to South Africa, who were returning to Britain in 1980, Prince and Princess Bonaparte on a souvenir Napoleonic cruise, with 70 French passengers. Some passengers have liked the island so much they have stayed. Captain Wyatt says: "There is the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank manager, who went ashore, came back to the UK to settle his affairs, and returned to retire." Captain Smith adds: "There is a sense of total peace. You don't hear or see anything, apart from the occasional aircraft's slipstream, miles overhead, or a rare ship passing, far away on the horizon." But on "ship day" the atmosphere is rather more frenetic.



Captains Bob Wyatt, left, and Martin Smith, waiting to take RMS St Helena on her last voyage to the isolated community in the South Atlantic

Cheney
defends
nuclear
strike
option

Bush poised to backtrack on campaign tax pledge

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

AMERICANS are frantically trying to reread their President's lips. Until last week, he was the leader who promised: "Read my lips! No new taxes." Now, the pledge which helped carry him to the White House looks shaky following his decision to try to sort out his country's budget woes.

This, Washington concluded, signalled that taxes would be on the table. In an attempt to calm the ensuing panic, Bush Administration officials have said that taxes are not necessarily on the agenda. They are simply not off it. The White House has refused to say whether the President is ready to talk about raising taxes.

Mr Bush's decision to tackle the nation's deficit marks a reversal of his position three months ago when he told Congress he was not contemplating bipartisan negotiations to reach a deal. Since then, economic conditions have forced him to reconsider.

Government revenues have fallen while rising interest rates have boosted spending. Administration officials say that Mr Bush, spurred by

The Administration has been under pressure to address the budget problem for some time. Mr Bush's main aim will be to draw up a package of spending cuts and revenue rises that will prevent the automatic imposition of across-the-board spending cuts this autumn under the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

Mr Bush would like to avoid Gramm-Rudman's axe. The law, which sets \$64 billion (£39 billion) as the limit for the federal deficit next year, would trim about 20 per cent off spending for defence and other domestic programmes without consideration for the priority of projects.

Traditionally, Republicans have linked themselves with lower taxes, while the Democrats have admitted, usually to their peril, a willingness to raise revenues through taxation.

Already, the Bush Administration is rushing to placate the nervous Republicans, while the Democrats are seeking to avoid the blame for forcing the White House to consider new taxes. The Bush Administration has repeatedly accused the Democratic-led Congress of contributing to the budget shortfall by irresponsibly overspending the President's approved budget.

The latest readout on Mr Bush's lips is that "no new taxes" really means "no new income taxes". Political experts point out that the Bush Administration has already raised or introduced some taxes but disguised them as "user fees", such as increases last autumn in taxes on airline tickets and social security payments.

The most likely new tax would be on petrol. A 25-cent increase on a gallon of petrol would bring in an estimated further \$25 billion a year, or around half the amount estimated necessary to avoid the Gramm-Rudman cuts. For Mr Bush, who took office proclaiming himself the "environmental President", an energy tax would also have the advantage of appealing to America's flourishing green movement.

It may, however, encounter opposition in Congress from members of large Western states which have little public transport.

Californians, for example, are bound to complain that an energy tax unfairly targets them over the residents of cities on the East Coast who do not need to drive long distances.

Leading article, page 15

Canadians drug unruly deportees

From John Best
Ottawa

A POLITICAL storm has blown up in Canada over disclosures that unco-operative deportees have been sedated by government medical personnel to get them to leave the country quietly.

Opposition MPs have denounced the practice, calling it inhumane and a violation of the national charter of rights and freedoms. Mr Dan Heap, the New Democratic Party's human rights spokesman, said that "not even convicted criminals" were subjected to such treatment. However, under sustained opposition questioning in the Commons on Tuesday, Mrs Barbara McDougall, the immigration Minister, refused to give an undertaking that the practice will be halted.

She said that some immigration enforcement officers have been injured while escorting reluctant deportees. Mrs McDougall also argued that the Government has a responsibility to protect the other passengers on an aircraft carrying a deportee.

She said that of 3,125 illegal immigrants deported since January 1, 1989, only nine were given drugs — for medical reasons or to calm the potentially dangerous.

Hong Kong promises inquiry into camp claim

From Jonathan Braude
Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government has promised an investigation into complaints of heavy-handed police action against women and children during a weapons search at Hong Kong's largest Vietnamese camp last week.

The move follows an outspoken attack by Mr Philip Barker, the Hong Kong field director of Save the Children Fund, who said the brutality of the pre-dawn operation at the 22,000-inmate Whitehead detention centre left many people "shocked and terrified". Vietnamese in the camps, he said, reported that tear gas was sprayed directly into the dormitories, forcing inmates to leave. "Some mothers who could not get ready quickly enough claim they were pushed and hit by the police with batons."

The Government Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Mike Hansson, said all the allegations would be passed to the Complaints Against Police Office for investigation. However, he defended the raid against accusations of brutality and said the police had acted with restraint.

"The purpose of the operation was to find and remove weapons from the camp. They found and removed over 2,500 very dangerous weapons," he said. Any complaints of aggressive police searching of women and children would also be investigated, but he claimed that the search itself was justified. "In the past women and children have had weapons," he said.

Leading article, page 15



Susan is just like any other 10-year-old...
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Journey's end: The crew of a Hong Kong police patrol boat lining up on deck to survey a boatload of Vietnamese they had just intercepted. The boat people had travelled overland through China before making the hazardous sea journey. This week a plane carrying 125 boat people left Hong Kong for Hanoi, bringing to more than 2,000 the number who have returned home voluntarily under a UN-sponsored programme

Chinese threat to curb Muslims

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

THE governor of the northwest Chinese region of Xinjiang has threatened to crack down on religious activities in the predominantly Muslim area, which was shaken by what Peking officials called an "armed counter-revolutionary rebellion" last month.

"We should intensify supervision of religious activities and the venues for such activities," said Mr Tomur Dawamat, the governor of the autonomous region, speaking on the "quelling of the counter-revolutionary armed rebellion" at a meeting of the regional congress, which was shown on television.

Attempts to curb religious activities are likely to aggravate further Muslim anger against the Chinese, and to lead to even louder calls for a separate Islamic state. According to Peking, those who rebelled last month intended to wage a holy war to set up a republic of East Turkistan.

The Chinese authorities are extremely concerned at the fact that many of the instigators of the unrest have escaped the police net and are still at large. "They're terrified," said a diplomat of the authorities.

Officials have played down the extent of the unrest in Xinjiang, knowing that few foreigners were there to see it and eager to present to the world a facade of stability and unity. However, a Western diplomat, familiar with the region, said: "The scale of propaganda just doesn't tally with a small incident."

He doubted that officials recruited from among the Muslim minorities would turn against the Han Chinese, since "their tradition is rather dependent on the Chinese staying there". But officials apart, there looks as though there was widespread popular support... the intensity with which the authorities are pursuing religion gives the game away."

Official accounts give a death toll of 22, but there have been unofficial reports of nearer 50 dead. In the

Xinjiang daily newspaper, gory accounts have been given of the uprising in Akto county, emphasising the ruthlessness of the Muslims.

By all accounts, the Muslims were armed with axes, guns, and grenades, and it was necessary to airlift in Chinese troops.

Diplomats believe that the rebels came from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and that the Chinese are involved in a diplomatic offensive to halt the flow of such weapons.

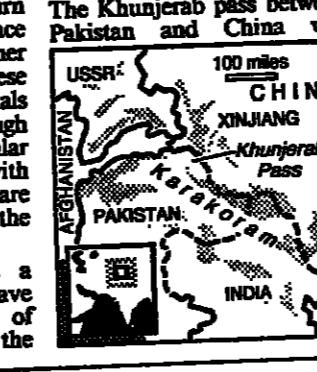
But the Chinese are not using diplomatic means alone. The Khunjerab pass between Pakistan and China was closed because of snow and was not opened at the start of May, as originally planned.

● **Mujahidin arms:** A foreigner who spent months in Xinjiang among the Muslims said that the Afghan Mujahidin guerrillas were supplying weapons from across the border.

The foreigner, who travelled extensively in the area shortly after last month's revolt, said the weapons, mainly guns, were intended for simultaneous uprisings in six oasis towns along the ancient Silk Road on the 17th day of the Ramadan festival (April 13).

The revolt was to be led by Abu Kasim, described as an Islamic spiritual leader and commander-in-chief of an underground movement for an independent "Free East Turkistan" in Xinjiang.

The plot was exposed and the Chinese sent militiamen to investigate, who were killed by the rebels, leading to further battles with Chinese security services, he said. (Reuter)



Sarawak tribes battle against jungle loggers

From Mary Kay Magistad, Muhi, Sarawak

THE young Penan tribesman drew a poison dart from the case slung over his shoulder and loaded it into his blowpipe. He took aim at a small bird flitting through the jungle canopy, and blew. The bird fell silently.

"It's not so easy living off the forest now," said Moss, aged 25, as he pulled out another dart. "We used to be able to find wild boar and other animals in just a few minutes. Now we can hunt for days and find nothing. We have to walk much further for the fruit trees and plants for medicine we have always used. The logging is destroying them. That's why we are trying to stop the logging."

The Malaysian side of Borneo island, one of the world's oldest and most diverse tropical rainforests, is steadily losing the battle to a lust for quick profits. Logging companies have accelerated their pace, keeping a 24-hour vigil in some camps to speed the transformation of quality tropical timber into money in the bank.

Left in the lurch are more than half a million native tribespeople, who have lived as part of the rainforest ecosystem for thousands of years.

Perhaps more than any of the other 20 or so tribes in Sarawak, the Penan are especially feeling the pinch. While the other tribes were traditionally farmers as well as head-hunters, the Penan avoided both practices and lived as jungle nomads. The State of Sarawak recognises tribal customary rights only of cleared and cultivated land, however — leaving the Penan with nothing, officially, to call their own.

"Their knowledge and unity with the forest is something that's not really matched anywhere in the world," said Mr Grant Rosoman, a New Zealand environmental activist who recently spent weeks visiting remote Penan longhouses. "But now their ecosystem is changing irretrievably — and it's destroying their way of life."

Logging in Sarawak is big business — and big money. Malaysia's timber exports — worth more than \$1.5 billion (£898 million) annually — account for more than half of the world's export market. And while the Malaysian Government siphons off

royalties from Sarawak's huge oil industry, the Sarawak state Government keeps whatever logging revenue it earns.

Some of Sarawak's government officials profit much more directly. Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib's family owns almost four million acres of logging concessions, about one-third of Sarawak's total. Mr James Wong, the Environment Minister, owns rights to log another huge swath of virgin rainforest.

The political pork-barrel and staggering profits from logging in Sarawak have created an instant class of millionaire politicians, environmental activists have charged. They say it's no coincidence that Sarawak's only car factory manufactures BMWs.

But Sarawak's political élite insist that the trickle-down effect works — even if the people don't realize it yet. Chief Minister Taib has claimed that logging has helped to "civilize" the natives, and put money in their pockets.

"We were told we would get hundreds of thousands of dollars from the loggers," said one tribesman from a longhouse on the Tutoh River. "But we've received almost nothing. They take our land, they log our forests — and life just gets harder."

The Penan, joined by a handful of other tribes, have refused to go down without a fight. Over the past three years, they've put up a series of blockades to stop the loggers from going any deeper into virgin rainforest.

Elderly headmen in loincloths and bangles, tribal women with four-inch diameter logs hanging in their unbelievably stretched earlobes, and naked toddlers lined up in front of the bulldozers and demanded a stop to the logging. Dozens of the men were promptly thrown in jail for illegally blocking "state" land.

Meanwhile, logging has gone full-speed ahead on the contested territory.

Pretoria rights Bill urged

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE Chief Justice of South Africa has called for the establishment of a national Bill of Rights, enforceable by the Supreme Court on the pattern of the United States, to safeguard civil liberties in a post-apartheid era.

Mr Justice M.M. Corbett told the South African Institute of Race Relations this week that the process would not be easy, and when he was at the Bar he had found a good compromise was one that never wholly satisfied either party.

"I imagine that much the same principle must apply to constitutional negotiations." An essential ingredient was a Bill of Rights, but by itself it could be no more than a Utopian statement. It re-

ported. Mr Justice Corbett regards it as an outstanding piece of work, and welcomes subsequent suggestions that the final version be part of a constitutional settlement.

"This will give the Bill a binding force that could never have been achieved by simply parliamentary legislation."

However, it was of paramount importance that the judiciary should be the supreme arbiter and executor of civil liberties. "Justiciability in a court of law by way of judicial review there obviously must be. There are evidently in various countries Bills of Rights which are not justiciable in this way, but they must be hollow, worthless things."

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Colombian cocaine ring broken in New York

New York — A Colombian cocaine trafficking organization in the New York area, dealing in drugs worth \$20 million (£12 million) per month, has been broken up with the arrest of 17 people and the seizure of a well-fortified Long Island farm.

An official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service was also arrested and charged with taking more than \$100,000 in bribes to provide drug smugglers with identification as permanent US residents, officials said. (AP)

Activists held

Harare — Six activists of the opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement have been detained in the Midlands town of Gweru under emergency powers regulations. (AFP)

Stasi suicide

East Berlin — General Peter Koch, aged 60, the secret police chief ordered in December by Herr Hans Modrow to break up the Stasi, has committed suicide. (AFP)

Paid back

Warsaw — A provincial court has awarded 37 million zlotys (£2,380) in compensation to Mr Franciszek Szwilk, imprisoned for more than six years on a false conviction during the Stalinist persecutions of the 1950s. (AP)

Ankara attack

Ankara — The response of Turkey to Amnesty International's allegations of continuing human rights abuses is that "the report seems to be a photostat copy of the previous one". (Reuters)

'Rebel shot'

Monrovia — President Doe of Liberia said he believed that the leader of the current rebellion, Mr Charles Taylor, had been shot in an internal feud and was being treated in hospital in the neighbouring Ivory Coast. (Reuters)

Destroyer docks

Norfolk, Virginia — The guided-missile destroyer USS Conyngham, damaged by a fire which killed a sailor and injured 12 others, docked yesterday at the Norfolk naval station. (AP)

The poll tax: let the people choose

My hope and belief is that the Conservatives will win the next general election. Central to achieving this are a significant reduction in the inflation rate and the restoration of rising real living standards. Falling interest rates could fuel this virtuous circle next year, reinforced. I hope by Britain's entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism. The political divide will then narrow, and despite the local election results, I foresee no recovery worth the name for the centre parties.

Secondary issues may, however, remain of more than usual significance, and the community charge will retain a powerful national importance.

In many of the marginal constituencies by which the tenure of power is determined, the community charge is perceived to have broken the Disraelian compact upon which Tory power rests.

Principally in the North-West, Yorkshire and the West Midlands, but stretching ominously into parts of southern England, is a belief that it is either too high, unfair, or both, and it has created a lingering sense of injustice. I have never known so large a postbag — from those with a life-long commitment to the Tory cause who, having bought their homes, saved to ensure their independence and budgeted carefully for their old age, feel badly let down.

To these must be added recent recruits: council-house buyers and the couples in terraced houses who last year paid £250 in rates and this year face bills of more than £700. They have no doubt about whose fault that is. They are not political philosophers, just people on tight budgets. They have to be won back to their natural political home. There is no time to be lost. There will be no second chance.

It is little wonder that local government remains at the centre of political debate. It spends £36 billion a year, administers essential services and presents to our citizens the largest single bill that many of them ever see. But it is neither that local nor that simple. Central government pays most of the costs and has the overriding mandate to prescribe the quality of public services.

We want local choice, but only to an extent that is compatible with the responsibility of ministers for national standards. We want strengthened local accountability, a healthy local democracy and a system of finance which is perceived to be fair.

It is in unitary local authorities that the accountability emerges most clearly. I doubt if the stunning local election results in Wandsworth and Westminster would have been so conclusive had the community charges there been confused by precepts from the GLC or ILFA. People need to know who is responsible. So I am increasingly persuaded that we should restore the identity of the old single-tier county borough for our major urban areas, to provide a more effective framework of local pride and local accountability. I favour paid, directly-elected mayors in command, in order to bring local spending under con-

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

The queue of traffic waiting to turn left from the Faro airport approach road was seriously long and, as the right-hand lane was clear, I drove my Avis hire-car past a hundred stationary vehicles, turned east on the highway and some 500 metres on, with no traffic behind or in front, executed a U-turn. Passing the Aeropuerto sign on the other side of the road, it was reassuring to note that the line of cars had barely diminished, and I chortled as I accelerated westward in the direction of Sagres. The sun shone from a cloudless sky, had there been birds in the hedgerows, they would surely have sung, for it was the bank holiday weekend.

A few minutes later, I was overtaken by a policeman on a motorbike, who waved his arm in a manner which persuaded me to stop. I had not been watching the speedometer and my seatbelt was unfastened; he wore a uniform, looked angry — silly to drive on under these circumstances. Pulling into a convenient lay-by, I emerged from the car and said "Bom dia" the way one does.

He said: "Driving licence," the way they do. A batch of the cars that had been trapped by the airport feeder road lights drove by, their occupants smirking as they went; some of them waved.

"Driving licence," said the policeman a second time. I had left my driving licence on the roadside table in Wimpole Street earlier that morning, though fortunately Avis, from whom I have hired before, had a record of the number. Explanations of this predicament would have stretched my Portuguese, so I delved in my bag and brought out passport, British Caledonian charter ticket, vehicle rental agreement, senior citizen's rail pass, MCC membership card for 1990 (which is about driver's licence size, though more dramatic in colour), and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a country house hotel in the West Country which is looking for investment under the Business Expansion Scheme. He examined the documents carefully and said it would cost 8,000 escudos. I replied that it was a

pleasure doing business with him, explained that at a rate of exchange of 250 to the £1, I made it £32 which sum I produced. He looked at the notes with as much enthusiasm as he had accorded the MCC card, grabbed in his motorbike bag and took from its depths a copy of *Correio de Manha*, a national tabloid, which he opened at the inside back page: looking over his shoulder, I noted that on the international weather table London had been warmer than Lisbon — and remarked thereon, pleasantly.

He grunted and turned a page. *Benfica* had won at home. I tried to translate "Two, Four, Six, Eight, Who do we appreciate, B.E.N.F.I.C.A." He let it pass, along with most of the cars that had been in the queue at the traffic lights. He turned another page, "Industrial dispute by Iberian ground control staff". I told him it had been at Gatwick — the noise, the people, the delays — and he peered unenthusiastically at the £10 notes I had thrust into his hand while continuing to search the pages of his newspaper for the sterling-escudo exchange rate.

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I asked if I might go now. He nodded. I got into my car, started the engine, stopped it, got out, went up to the policeman and said: "Tell me what it is all over, tell me what I did wrong." He said he had seen me do a U-turn on the main road near the Aeropuerto traffic lights.

I thought of explaining the legality of such a manoeuvre, considered reminding him that his country and mine were the oldest allies in Europe, toyed with asking for my money back, decided to let this be a lesson to me and muttered: "I understand."

He said "Bom dia." So I said: "Driving licence."



Michael Heseltine suggests higher payments by the better-off and an obligatory election when a council wishes to exceed spending levels laid down by the Government

might find itself blamed for poor standards and find it difficult to resist pressures for ameliorating expenditure. Income tax might have to rise, and again there is little to ensure that local authorities, relieved of expenditure, will reduce the community charge as opposed to seeking out new opportunities to spend.

One solution advocated is the introduction of a general "cap"; no council allowed to increase its charge bill or its expenditure by more than a stated percentage. In the early 1980s we crawled over this obvious idea, but rejected it.

To cap or control, central government has to choose figures so far above the average that only a limited number of extreme cases are caught. And those below the cap have an implied licence to spend up to it. To extend the cap by lowering its incidence increases the risk of legal challenge. And to design such a system effectively would negate accountability and be an act of centralized political power outside our experience. On these grounds alone it should be resisted.

This brings me to the single biggest change I believe the Government should introduce. Only one factor consistently presses

down on local government expenditure: the fear of electoral defeat. Historically, in election years the rates were held down, while in other years balances built up and expenditure increased.

Local authorities should be free to set and account for their own budgets. What I propose is that, if those budgets exceed by a given percentage the Government's calculations of the sum needed to contribute to the safety net. But in those authorities with no elections next year there is little incentive to pass on to charge-payers the equivalent of this sum.

On to two specific problems. Within the present safety-net provisions, an accident is waiting to happen. Next year the Treasury is to assume responsibility for paying up to £75 per adult on behalf of those councils which this year are contributing to the safety net. But

it would impose a powerful financial discipline because few councillors would want to risk it; certainly not year after year.

It would be possible to tighten the disciplines further and build in an extra disincentive by imposing a surcharge. A local authority proposing a high community charge would have to hand over a surcharge to the Treasury to compensate for inflationary consequences. The surcharge could rise as excess expenditure rose. The scales could be weighted against the excess spenders, without removing all their discretion. Local authorities would retain

discretion, and it would be their electorate, not central government, which capped them, without having to wait years to do so.

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old people's homes, thereby increasing public expenditure, would save them personally around £350 a year — seems to me a negation of Tory principles. The deemed assumption by the Government that savings can earn more than 20 per cent is, frankly, incredible. And we have gained the maximum political opportunity by charging the physically disabled, student nurses and students themselves, with precious little extra revenue to show for it.

There are harsh anomalies following the death of a house-owner. Surely compassion must spare relatives the immediate arrival of a bill for two poll taxes, days after a loved one dies. Local authorities' discretion to charge up to double the community charge in this — and quite a number of other situations — should be restricted. The double burden of community charge and unified business rate on the small businessman living above the shop is unacceptable.

Funding next year's grant settlement will present the Government with its most difficult decision. The settlement itself must be based on realistic economic assumptions. It must also involve a determined adjustment of the standard spending assessments to reflect reality in a wider range of authorities. My instinct is for a realistic settlement, relying on my election proposal to keep the charge down. But realism is not just about local government; it is about the economy at large. The natives may be restless in the constituencies, but the gnomes in Zurich are not doing either.

Finally, I come to the most Properly run, local government can be a source of alternative political power, a focal point for civic pride and a sensitive means of involving and serving the people. Central government does not always know best and certainly has no monopoly of prudent administration. But it pays most of the bills and, therefore, there has to be a partnership of power.

Bernard Levin sees the Campbell case as reason for a new look at the libel laws

Faction with a sting in the tale

Is everybody mad but me? I ask the question in the wake of the Duncan Campbell libel action, settled last week by the BBC on payment of £50,000 in damages and another £50,000 or so in legal costs (oh, in my next life I am going to be a lawyer, oh yes I am, I tell you). The BBC had originally offered £5,000; were I the man who runs the BBC (which, thank the Lord, I'm not, Sir), rather than sticking a nought on the end and giving in, I would have reduced the offer to a crumpled tenner and fought the thing from here to eternity.

Before I argue my claim, there are some obvious things to be said, though in truth they are so obvious that I really should not waste time on them. First, of course, Mr Campbell is not a transvestite, he is not a fetishist, he is not a compulsive shoplifter, and he is not a journalist so negligent in his work that people who trust him find themselves betrayed.

I must pause here to point out that on the first two items he should have been non-suited anyway; it is not a crime to be a transvestite or a fetishist, nor is it something so revolting that no decent person could associate with one who practised such arcane pleasures even if he didn't do it in the street and frighten the horses; anyway, the question does not arise, because he wasn't either, let alone both. Nor, I repeat, was he guilty of the two real charges — thieving from shops and shopping in his informants.

These things, though, were attributed in a play screened by "David Dunhill". (The paucity of imagination shown by the BBC's drama department can give you hiccups; anyone but that lot would at least have had the sense to name the character Lorimer Dashboard-Fontwater or Karl Dobermann-Pinscher or even Roy Hattersley.) David Dunhill, in the play, was an investigative journalist specializing in the exposure of military fiddles (British ones, of course).

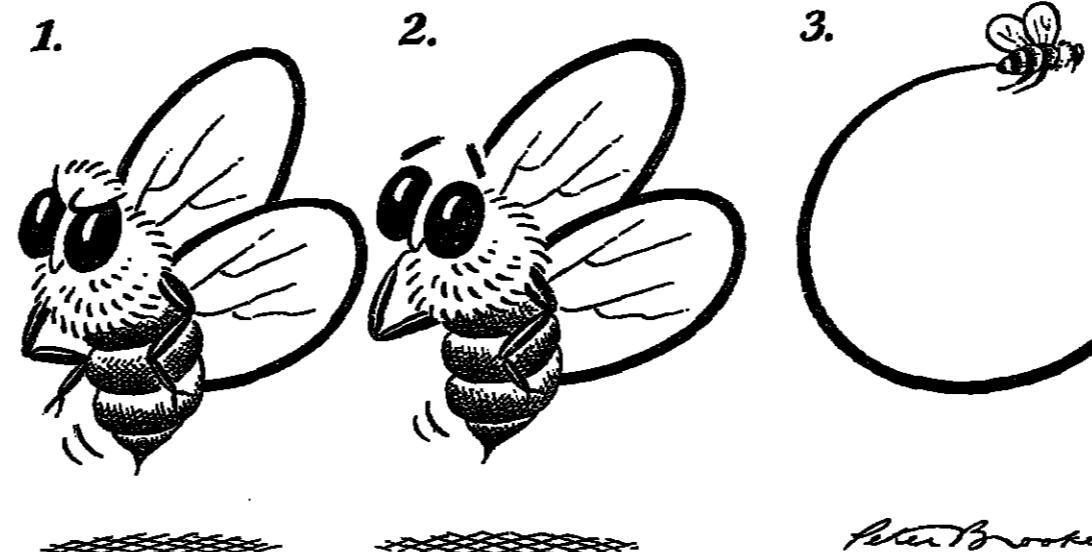
Ghost with a past

Fresh controversy seems certain to break out around the released Guildford Four with two of them due to publish autobiographies soon. Gerard Conlan's story is being ghosted by *Guardian* journalist David Pallister, and has already led to ructions on the paper over its own coverage of the case. Paul Hill's autobiography, *Stolen Years: Before and After Guildford*, is being rushed out at the beginning of July, and is described by Doubleday, the publisher, as a "well-written, wonderful human interest story". Hill's co-writer, Ronan Bennett, is no stranger to controversy. Three years ago, on the advice of the security services, the Speaker withdrew his House of Commons pass, issued by Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn, when it was revealed that in 1975 Bennett had been convicted of murdering a Northern Ireland police officer and sentenced to life imprisonment, though the conviction was overturned on appeal.

Later, Bennett admitted to working as a full-time member of the Anarchist movement in Britain, but he insisted yesterday: "My own politics are irrelevant. The book is written solely in Paul's voice." His personal experience of prison, police interrogation and a major trial enhanced his qualifications to write the book, he says. "People cannot understand how someone can make a false confession to something they did not do. I can."

He said "Bom dia." So I said: "Driving licence." I thought of explaining the legality of such a manoeuvre, considered reminding him that his country and mine were the oldest allies in Europe, toyed with asking for my money back, decided to let this be a lesson to me and muttered: "I understand."

He said "Bom dia." So I said: "Driving licence."



which is much the same as what Campbell does for a living. There was an announcement attached to the broadcast, making clear that what was to follow was fiction, but the similarity of name, trade, professional experience and, it seems, even appearance, could hardly have been entirely coincidental, and when criminal behaviour was added to the portrait of the character, it added up to defamation, whereupon Mr Campbell sued.

Let us jump forward, at this point, to Mr Campbell's solicitor making his statement in court after the case had been settled. In such pleas the rule is to lay it on thick, but I do feel that the bilge content in this instance was enough to drown everybody in sight from the Law Courts to the far end of the Strand. Here, after all, is a journalist with many a real scoop to his name, who has tangled not only with bureaucracy but the law, who is as dogged in his pursuit of his professional quarry as any mole, who has had the Special Branch raiding his home, who has been threatened and ignored the threats, and who has even fallen off his bicycle and had the house I still put my hand over

bashed his face rather badly, yet carried on; and it is of this man that the following is said: "...the central character was taken by a number of viewers to be a representation of Mr Campbell's personal and professional life", and "...the film caused profound distress and professional embarrassment to Campbell..."

I used the word bilge was it too strong? For who this shrinking flower weeping into his pillow night after night with the distress

— nay, the profound distress — and professional embarrassment that the film has caused him? Why, who but Mr Duncan Campbell, the Terror of the MoD, the Bane of Thatcher, the Man with his Eye to a Thousand Keyholes, whose life has been ruined (or will be if he doesn't get a gigantic pile of spondulicks to dry his tears on) by being portrayed "with only a cat and a domineering mother for company".

Look, mate. You were only supposed to have a domineering mother; let me tell you that I did have, and not in a play, a Jewish mother, and to this day, if I drink a cup of hot tea just before leaving the house I still put my hand over

mouth, in case I catch cold. Beat that, namby-pamby. (As for the cat, I have 17, but they are made of wood, stone or cloth, and I live alone quite happily. You can borrow some of my CDs if it will make you feel better.)

And the BBC caved in! How is the present madness in the libel courts, where any plaintiff has an odds-on chance of massive damages, however absurd his case, to be ended if an organization like the BBC, having sensibly offered £5,000 in settlement, goes mad and agrees to the figure being multiplied by 10?

As it happens, there is an answer to that question. From time to time, there have been suggestions that the law of slander should be brought into line with the law of libel; the crucial difference between them is (with a few exceptions) that in libel, damage is assumed if the defamation is proved, but in slander actual damage must be shown. A.P. Herbert, I recall, frequently argued the case for the equality of slander, saying that it was absurd that words written on a postcard were more dangerous than words shouted from the rooftops.

I think that for once A.P. got things the wrong way round. Surely, what we need is a libel law which demands the same admirable test as slander does now. Had such a law existed when Mr Campbell was defamed, he would have had to prove that, say, friends ceased to see him and commissions dried up. It may well be that he could have proved as much, but the Flight of the Bumble-BBC made it impossible to discover what exactly were the results of the film for him. If he could have shown damage, he would have been entitled to monetary compensation; my own feeling is that journalists ought not to sue anyway, and I go further and say that a successful plaintiff ought to have his costs and a publicly-promulgated statement of the outcome of the action, but not damages. Does nobody remember the jingle of my childhood, which went "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me"?

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for Life day organized by the Aids charity, Crusaid. When the film first appeared, Strauss himself conducted the accompanying orchestra and singers before disowning it. The City of

It should fit in with the noisy paintings.



Birmingham Touring Opera will provide the Festival Hall soundtrack, and in a bizarre variation of the Royal Opera's controversial procedure, opera critics will hold aloft placards bearing English translations of the film's German subtitles.

Noises off

A silent film of *Der Rosenkavalier* made in 1926, complete with sandwich-board translations of German subtitles and an accompanying live performance, may sound like something from the wilder fringes of the Edinburgh Festival, but just such a multimedia extravaganza will be seen at the Festival Hall this month. The film of Richard Strauss's opera, not seen since its British première 64 years ago because of the composer's disapproval, will be screened as part of the Music

warnings not to assume that the worst is over on the poll tax. Portillo's appointment, working under Chris Patten's wing, is the latest in a string of coincidences. He joined Patten at the Conservative Research Department on May 3, 1976, began work for the Prime Minister on May 3, 1979, and was formally told of his latest job on May 3, 1990.

A sleuth rewarded

Norman Sherry, author of an exhaustive biography of Graham Greene, has, like his subject, been awarded an Edgar by the Mystery Writers of America Inc. It recognizes not so much his mastery of the who-dunnit but his drollness: his single-minded shadowing of Greene's far-flung wanderings over a period of 20 years — to West Africa, the Americas, the Congo, Vietnam and, of course, Brighton — to describe the settings of Greene's novels and to record his every action of any significance (and some, it must be confessed, of none). The award, in the form of a bust of Edgar Allan Poe, the guiding spirit of the MWA, has surprised the British-born author, who now lives in Texas. "I have never regarded myself as a mystery writer," he said yesterday. But his odyssey was replete with mystery, as he concedes in the preface to his book. Greene, he wrote, "is noted for his determination to protect his privacy and keep secret what he wishes to keep secret". Indeed, when Sherry asked Greene for a map of his journeys, the author duly complied — but added the note: "You are my biographer, you date my journeys."



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A PROFESSION AT BAY

It is a great pity that the big teaching unions should have run up such a deficit in public sympathy over the past decade. They fought the Tory reforms — parent power, opting out, the National Curriculum — every inch of the way, and shattered their standing in the community by breaking the unwritten code of professional people: thou shalt not strike. Their strikes seemed to be incessant, and were called for purposes which few parents understood, let alone supported. If recruiting new teachers is now a sisyphean task, the culture of gloomy self-pity which unions have sustained in the staff-rooms bears much of the blame.

This all-pervading sulkiness has allowed society and the Government to underestimate the case for better-paid profession in the 1990s — which teachers themselves might have been making, had their advocates possessed the wit to do so. A further indictment of these unions, and of their surrogates on the Labour front bench, is the fact that the first intellectually persuasive case for a large injection of public money should have come from a Tory-dominated education select committee, in yesterday's report on the supply of teachers for the 1990s.

The committee must have taken a deep breath before presenting its "substantial" bill to the Treasury, at a time when inflation is still rising and growth this year is expected to have fallen back to little more than 1 per cent. Teachers' pay has not been squeezed since the abolition of the Burnham negotiating system. All demands for treatment as a special case will rightly be subjected to sceptical scrutiny by the Cabinet's "star chamber".

Instead of ignoring the requirements of fiscal prudence, the report wants the State to boost resources to achieve several specific, limited and attainable ends. The committee wants salaries to be weighted to reflect house prices, in order to take account of the reasonable expectations of teachers in a property-owning society. Since teacher shortages are most severe in the South-east, the allowances paid to teachers in this region will only achieve their aim of attracting the disillusioned back into the profession if they make it possible to finance a

mortgage on a family house or flat. With high interest rates, this is hard for young married teachers in London and the Home Counties.

MPs are also right to recommend further targeting of so-called "shortage subjects". True, the Government has already introduced several schemes with this aim in mind — in the teeth of union opposition. But it has hitherto failed to offer enough cash to make them effective. This must be remedied soon, as the number of subjects which are short of recruits is growing. There is much to be said, too, for another proposal: that needy teachers in mid-career who want to stay in the classroom should not be forced into administration.

The committee calls for a new national negotiating machinery to be in place by March 1991. This is unavoidable. Central government, having provided most of the money with which local education authorities pay their teachers, is unwilling to give the LEAs a free rein; and the unions' institutional hostility to rein bargaining is insuperable.

Yet Mr MacGregor, the Education Secretary, has already proposed that individual LEAs, like grant-maintained schools, should have the option of reaching a settlement with their local unions within an overall budget, regardless of the new "son of Burnham". This is a rare phenomenon in public administration: a chance for local government to show that it can do better than Whitehall. The select committee may have felt that the devolution of responsibility for teachers' pay was outside its brief, but it should address this in its next report.

Even if the Government were to adopt all these proposals it cannot give the teachers back their professional self-esteem. That they must do for themselves. The proposed General Teaching Council, backed by the committee as a counterpart to other professional bodies, might help to foster a new self-confidence. Special training in classroom discipline — perhaps by seconding experienced "sergeant-majors" from good schools to the training colleges — would also help to restore morale. Teaching has never been a lucrative profession; it should always be a rewarding one.

PURSE MY LIPS

The budgetary ritual currently being played out in Washington between the Administration and the Congress is reminiscent both of a minut and of a game of poker. "Read my lips": Mr Bush intoned the phrase a thousand times as he rode the electoral trail in 1988. The message — "no new taxes" — was an alluring one, and audiences all over the United States shouted it back at him like children at a pantomime. The routine was of decisive importance in his victory over the Democrats, who remained anchored stubbornly in the public mind as the party of tax increases.

That was all of two years ago. The budget deficit has not gone away. The April employment figures were bad. Interest rates have continued to rise and economic growth remains sluggish. If matters do not improve dramatically by the autumn, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing Act will be triggered and there will be automatic cuts. The President's budget director, Mr Richard Darman, says they could be of the order of \$100 billion.

This is a prospect as unappealing to congressmen as it is to the President. The impact on defence would be twice as severe as that of the measures currently approved by the House, and the effect would be equally unattractive to those whose interest lies in social spending. Mr Bush, full of sweet reason, invited four key congressional leaders to meet him at the weekend "to sit down and talk process". The two Democrats who attended, the Senate majority leader and the House Speaker, did so in the spirit in which a couple of streetwise flies might walk into the spider's parlour.

Mr Bush has an eye not solely to the spectre of Gramm-Rudman. The congressional elections are only a few months away, and there is just a chance that the Republicans might regain control of the Senate. If that prospect is to remain a realistic one, the present exceptional popularity of the President in the opinion polls must not be jeopardized. In a longer perspec-

tive, there is Mr Bush's drive for a second term in 1992. An economy pushed into recession by sustained high interest rates is not at all what Republican strategists are looking for.

That is why it is now being put about that Mr Bush seeks a negotiation "unfettered" by past positions, including his own. The readability of the President's lips, it seems, carried only a 12-month guarantee. After that, what had been a pledge was transmuted into "a goal". The White House spokesman has said that the President would impose no preconditions on budget discussions. If, with his new readiness to discuss tax increases, he can entice the Democrats into some sort of budget deal now, the greater the chance of avoiding an embarrassing debate over taxes as the congressional election campaign heats up.

"George Bush is the oldest pro in the village", said a senior Republican Senator this week in a succinct explanation of why a particular tax — income tax — was the only one excluded from the long list of revenue increases now "in the mix". As an old oil man, the President might also jibe at the idea of a federal tax on petrol, but value-added taxes, a national lottery, taxes on cigarettes and alcohol and a one-cent national sales tax all seem to have been passed in review.

Apart from his desire to see a budget that will maintain economic growth and an agreement with Congress on a long-term programme to reduce the deficit, the President still harbours two ambitions that eluded his predecessor: a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, and the power to veto individual items in a spending bill without causing the rejection of the entire measure. They must both wait a little longer. For the moment Mr Bush and his opponents will continue to divide their attention in roughly equal proportions between the nation's most intractable fiscal problem and the watching of their own backs. The President is taking a risk. He is to be commended for doing so.

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

The audience at Covent Garden in 1809 was so upset by the rising price of seats that it held up the drama on stage for two whole months. No such fate seems likely to overtake *Il trovatore*, whose audience sounded in better voice than the leading tenor on Monday night. But the link between prices and protest remains pertinent.

In this country people usually boo productions — in contrast to Italy, where they concentrate on the cast. Last September the English National Opera at the Coliseum received what is politely called the bird when it set Verdi's *Masquerade Ball* in the 1920s (Verdi seems to be going through rather a bad patch). Two months later the Royal Opera House also provoked a mixed reaction with *Medea*, a Greek tragedy which it transposed to revolutionary France as part of the bicentennial celebrations.

One reason why the booing there last Monday attracted such attention in the press was that it was occasioned by a singer. Signor Walter Donati, who was playing the leading role, was said to be suffering from an infection of the throat, which must be like a ballet dancer trying to get through *Giselle* with a twisted ankle. Apparently the producer caught the worst of it, being cattled at the end of the performance. But that might have been because Signor Donati had left for what in Rugby League is called an early bath.

One should feel some sympathy with the disadvantaged. Donati started the evening in the reasonable voice and struggled manfully to the interval. He deteriorated in the second half, however, by which time it was too late to replace him. Arguably he should have been

cheered, not derided, for battling on through the pain barrier to the end. Booring is an obtrusive form of protest. Not only must it unsettle the suffering singer but it impinges on one's neighbours in the stalls, some of whom might actually be relishing the performance.

Opera singers, however, still escape fairly lightly. The barracking of slow-scoring opening balsmen, the taunts hurled at back-peddalling battered boxers, the missiles thrown at butterfingered goalkeepers... Admittedly it is difficult to recall a string quartet being excoriated in situ — and with a pop group it is rather hard to tell. The days when the police feel obliged to advise Covent Garden to change the date of its forthcoming Wagner fixture are still happily distant.

Audience reaction probably helps. No seat will be left unfilled at Covent Garden when *Il trovatore* returns tomorrow night. Peter O'Toole's intriguing version of *Macbeth* received more laughs on its first night than *Charley's Aunt*, but never looked back in terms of public interest. Theatres need lively audiences, not just live ones.

The main justification for booing must, however, rest with the rights of the average theatregoer. Seats at the Royal Opera House on Monday cost up to £82 apiece. Such prices were moreover being charged by a company which enjoys a 40 per cent subsidy from the taxpayer. Someone who has thus paid twice to see the best might feel aggrieved if the best is not delivered. However, hard life may have seemed for poor Signor Donati. Those who had paid to listen to a man with laryngitis might also feel they had a legitimate complaint. Audiences need to protest *fortissimo* at times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police priorities and public needs

From the Chairman of the Police Federation

Sir, Your leading article, "Confidence in the police" (May 3), was a refreshing change from some of the near-to-hysterical comments about police complaints and public confidence that have appeared in other papers recently.

You are quite right to draw attention to the most significant finding of the Operational Policing Review — that the public prefers a visible, preventive role for the police in the community, while police priorities put the detection of crime ahead of community policing. We have to accept that there is a need for fresh thinking and new understanding.

It will not be easy. The public expects criminals to be caught and the police are under constant attack for low detection rates. You yourself refer to public demands for results, even if these can be achieved only by shortsight.

The cantankerous culture of which you speak is not wholly destructive — it even instils a pride in belonging to the uniform that is wholly good; where it goes wrong is on those rare occasions when misguided loyalty to colleagues transcends obligation to the service. This is where good first-line management is so essential; yet now we have the majority of sergeants station-bound as cus-

tom officers, and inspectors weighed down with administrative duties.

The Police Federation rejects the concept of an "officer class", not because we fear a return to the ill-starred Trenchard scheme. We believe that the service contains more than enough in all ranks to provide first-class management and leadership now and in the future. What concerns us is that there are too many officers who are encouraged from an early age to pursue promotion for its own sake and as an end in itself. They are not giving the service leadership and it is this problem that must be addressed with some urgency.

The Operational Policing Review was the combined effort of all the service associations. It was undertaken in the interests of both the police and the public. There is no shortage of good will in the service to make the police more efficient and fully accountable.

There is, however, some reason to doubt the good intentions of others who proclaim that we are suffering from terminal institutional rot.

Yours sincerely,
A. EASTWOOD, Chairman,
Police Federation,
15-17 Langley Road,
Surbiton, Surrey.
May 4.

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, You report (May 3) a call from Gerald Kaufman and others to take "active steps which will result in the release of the British hostages".

Nobody could fail to have sympathy with innocent people incarcerated for years by terrorists, but we must not lose sight of the terrible dangers involved in any "active steps".

How the Syrians must be laughing at the way the US has dealt with them! All the hostages in Lebanon are held in areas controlled by the Syrian Army, most of them by groups financed by Syria's ally, Iran, or by Damascus itself. It is simply impossible to believe that, with 40,000 soldiers and secret police deployed in an area of size and population similar to Wales, the Syrians do not know where the hostages are held.

Indeed no group could survive long in the occupied area without Syrian blessing, yet Assad is having praise heaped on him by the USA for his "influence" in obtaining the release of American hostages. No action has been taken against him for harbouring in Damascus the group responsible for the Lockerbie bombing.

Thank God we have a Prime Minister determined not to deal with terrorists; appeasement always worsens a problem in the end.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons.
May 3.

War horses

From Mr E. Windham-Bellord

Sir, The late Sir Harry Smith, when Governor of the Cape in the middle of the last century, had one town named after himself. Harry Smith, one after his Spanish wife, Ladysmith, and one after his charger, Alwi. That the animal had been named, in its turn, for Sir Harry's famous victory in 1846 in the Sikh campaign, before accompanying him to the Cape, does not lessen the uniqueness of a town being named for a horse, rather than the other way round.

It is still there, now called Alwi North.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
EDWARD WINDHAM-BELLORD,

The Cottage,
Cucklington, nr Wincanton,
Somerset.
May 8.

From Mr Christopher Tatham

prefer roast beef and Brussels sprouts.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. GORDON
(Executive Director),
International Meat Trade Association.

217 Central Markets, EC1.

From Mrs Margaret England

Sir, It has been said that we are to be caretakers of our world. Does Mr Gummer know that all the over-production of cattle has seriously contributed to the "greenhouse" gases?

Methane gas, CH₄, is the second greatest pollutant after CO₂. Each cow roughly produces 200 litres of methane a day!

Yours faithfully,
MARGGY ENGLAND
(Medical technologist),
22 Castle Gate,
Kirkbymoorside,
North Yorkshire.

From Dr R. V. Jones, FRS

A small handful of remarkable Scots and Englishmen, fewer than would be required for a football match, succeeded by their ingenuity in transforming the economic life of the country. No doubt they derived support and inspiration from the atmosphere of their age... Some of the inventors, notably James Watt, who first gave a decisive industrial value to the steam engine, were men of science. Yet more important than actual scientific training was the idea, which the Royal Society had so powerfully helped to spread, that the report also overlooks the associated impact of science.

Apart from distinguished exceptions, such as Herbert Butterfield and H. A. L. Fisher, historians (and, indeed, many scientists) have much undervalued the interaction of science and technology with history, despite all its fascination. An excellent case for study at school, and especially in Britain, is the development and application

of the steam engine, of which Fisher wrote:

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Thatcher 'vision of Britain'

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, Keith Joseph (May 7) writes that Mrs Thatcher's "vision is of a self-reliant British people with generous help to those who cannot help themselves but without encouraging dependency or a welfare culture".

The facts speak otherwise. Despite a rapid period of economic growth since 1981 the increase in the value of benefits for long-term claimants has risen at a much slower rate than was the case during the 1970s — a period of much more modest growth.

You also report (May 8) that the Government has had to revise its calculations on the increase in living standards for the poorest 10 per cent. Far from rising faster than any other decile group, their increase in real living standards is less than the average income for the whole of the period.

Keith Joseph is similarly wrong about welfare dependency. The Government seems unable to grasp the inherent conflict in its policy between targeting help on those in most need (invariably by way of means test) and discouraging a welfare dependency.

Mr Ridley is similarly wrong about welfare dependency. The Government seems unable to grasp the inherent conflict in its policy between targeting help on those in most need (invariably by way of means test) and discouraging a welfare dependency.

Yours truly,
N. L. CRAGOE
(Group Chief Executive),
Management & Business Studies,
50 Pall Mall, SW1.

May 8.

From Mr N. L. Cragoe

Sir, How can the "enterprise society" be said to have failed the poor when it has increased their living standards by 2.6 per cent?

Of course it would be better had it been the 8.4 per cent erroneously reported, but how nice to know that the standard of living for the whole population has gone up 5.4 per cent instead of 4.8 per cent as erroneously reported.

Yours truly,
N. L. CRAGOE

Management & Business Studies,
50 Pall Mall, SW1.

May 8.

From Mr David Bailey

Sir, And the winner of the Understatement of the Year Award for 1990 is... Lord Joseph for his article in *The Times* on May 7.

Here we are, heading for double-digit inflation with record interest rates and a record deficit of payments deficit.

What a pity.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BAILEY,
29 Elgin Crescent, W11.

Mr Ridley's short-term solution, in an attempt to retain certain parts of our national heritage (for 25 years, in the case of the Canova) by allowing a private purchase without transfer of title to a public institution, is merely passing the buck to the next generation.

It also completely negates the entire system of export control set up in 1953 under the Waverley criteria. Even at this late stage the matter could be helped if the Government were to take the advice of former Arts Minister, Lord St John of Fawsley, when he said (Parliament, May 3) that "many in the art world would accept the intervention of private funding... if there were to be access (for) the public in perpetuity and a permanent export ban".

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons Ltd.,
119 Mount Street, W1.

May 5.

Sale of the 'Graces'



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 9: His Excellency Señor Don Felipe de la Morena was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Spain to the Queen.

The engagement was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señor Don José Ignacio Carballo (Minister Counsellor), Capitán Don Alejandro Cuenda (Defence Attaché), Señor Don Fernando Serrano-Suárez (Minister, Cultural Affairs), Señor Don Ramón Saenz de Heredia (Minister), Señora Doña Aurora Bernáldez (Minister, Commercial Affairs), Señor Don Ramón Ansotao (Minister, Consular Affairs), Lieutenant-Colonel Don Daniel Pérez-Cobaleda (Air Attaché) and Lieutenant-Colonel Don Juan Ortúzo (Military Attaché).

Señora de la Morena was also received by Her Majesty, Mr Roger Tomkys (Deputy Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and Mrs Crouse were received by the Queen.

The Queen received the Bishop of Ely (the Right Reverend Stephen Whitfield Sykes), who was introduced into Her Majesty's service by the Right Hon David Waddington QC, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department) and did homage upon his appointment.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Chelmsford (Clerk of the Closet) to The Queen and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen this afternoon visited London Zoo and were received by Professor Aviorn Mitchison (President, Zoological Society of London).

Her Majesty, escorted by Dr David Jones (Director of Zoos) inaugurated the Elephant Tracking Project for Central Kenya and subsequently opened the Lifewatch Centre and unveiled a

Women of the North
Mrs Kitty Thorp, founder-president, presided at the twenty-fifth Women of the North luncheon held yesterday at the Hotel Majestic, Harrogate, in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child. Baroness Cox, Miss Molly Weir, Mrs Julie Stevens and Miss Dora Bryan also spoke.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Augustin-Jean Fresnel, physicist, Broglie, France, 1788; James Bryce, 1st Viscount Bryce, historian and diplomat, Belfast, 1838; Benito Galdos, novelist, Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 1843; Karl Barth, theologian, Basel, 1866.

DEATHS: Leontine Fuchs, physician and botanist, Tübingen, Germany, 1566; Ulisse Aldrovandi, naturalist, Bologna, 1605; Jean de La Bruyère, writer, Versailles, 1696; Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74; Versailles, 1774; George Vancouver, explorer, Richmond, Surrey, 1795; Paul Revere, American printer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; George Clint, portrait painter, London, 1854; Thomas Jonathan ('Stonewall') Jackson, Confederate general in the American Civil War, Chancellorsville, Virginia, 1863; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer, London 1904; Joan Crawford, actress, New York, 1977; J B Morton, ('Beachcomber'), satirist and historian, Worthing, 1979.

The Indian Mutiny began, 1857.

London Hospital
A service of thanksgiving and rededication to mark the 250th anniversary of the London Hospital held yesterday in St Paul's Cathedral. The Dean of St Paul's officiated assisted by the Rev Peter Cowell, Chaplain of the London Hospital. The Archdeacon of London and Miss Brenda Faulkner, Director of Nursing Services, read the lessons. The Rev Peter Jennings, Free Church Chaplain, the Rev Annie Shaw, Chaplain of Lewisham Hospital, and the Right Rev Victor Gazzelli, Bishop in East London, said prayers. The Bishop of Stepney gave an address and pronounced the blessing. Members of St Paul's Chapter, Prelates and members of other denominations were robed and in choir.

Birthdays today

Sir John Ainstey, former Chief Justice of Kenya, 84; Mr W.F.W. Bischoff, group chief executive, Schroders, 49; Sir David Brown, former chairman, Aston Martin Lagonda, 86; Mr Trevor Clay, former general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 54; Lord Collison, 81; Sir Brian Corby, chairman designate, Prudential Corporation, 61; Miss Monica Dickens, writer, 75; Mr J.R.S. Dugdale, Lord Lieutenant of Salop, 67; Major-General Edward Furdon, defence consultant, 65; Sir Edward Gardner, QC, former MP, 78; Lord Justice Kelly, 70; Sir Ewart Levy, 93; Mr Richard Lewis, concert and opera singer, 76; Miss Maureen Lipman, actress, 44; Sir William Lithgow, industrialist, 56; Lord Justice Musill, 59; Sir David Orr, chairman, British Council, 68; Sir Angus Paton, civil engineer, 85; Mr Bruce Raymond, jockey, 47; Dr Michael Shea, former Press Secretary to the Queen, 52; Lord Smith, 76; the Duke of Sutherland, 73; Mr Denis Thatcher, 75; Brigadier Dame Mervyn Turner, former matron-in-chief and director, Army Nursing Service, 80.

Luncheons

Norwegian Chamber of Commerce
Mr Ole Sig Kværndal, President of the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, presided at the annual luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mrs Kaci Kullmann Five, Norwegian Minister of Trade and Shipping, was the guest of honour and the Norwegian Ambassador attended.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.G. Gilbert and Miss M.J. Libby
The engagement is announced between Christopher Gerald, son of Mr and Mrs D.J.F. Libby, of Somerset West, South Africa, and Melinda Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Libby, of Kingston, Surrey.

Mr D.A. Harrod and Miss J.M. Elsdon-Dew
The engagement is announced between David, son of Major-General and Mrs L.A.D. Harrod, of The Grange, Marmouth, Dorset, and Jane, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs W. Elsdon-Dew, of March House, Fawdon, Surrey.

Mr N.D. Jones and Miss J. Lloyd-Williams
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of His Honour Judge Graham Jones and Mrs Jones of Radnor, Cardiff, and Jane, only daughter of Capt and Mrs W. Lloyd-Williams, of Holyhead, Anglesey.

Mr C.I. Llewelyn and Miss M.G. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Ivor, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Llewelyn, of Borthill-on-Sea, East Sussex, and Georgia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Campbell, of Rothsay Terrace, Edinburgh.

OBITUARIES**CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FIAICH**

Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, died aged 66 on May 8. He was born on November 23, 1923.

TOMÁS Ó FIAICH was the right man in the right place at tragically the wrong time. His sense of identity with the Catholic people of South Armagh, from whom he sprang and whose spiritual leader he became, could be doubted by none who knew him.

It showed itself in simple habits of speech, behaviour and leisure interests. While a Professor at the national seminary in Maynooth he spent as many weekends as he could on visits to his home parish of Crossmaglen. There he liked to assist in the work of the local clergy and to turn out in support of the county Gaelic football team. At a deeper level, his consciousness of origin stimulated much of his research as a professional historian.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, and received Honorary Membership; later, as Patron, Her Royal Highness visited the Glasgow Branch of The Samaritans in West Regent Street.

Mr Peter Wilmar-Sinclair was in attendance.

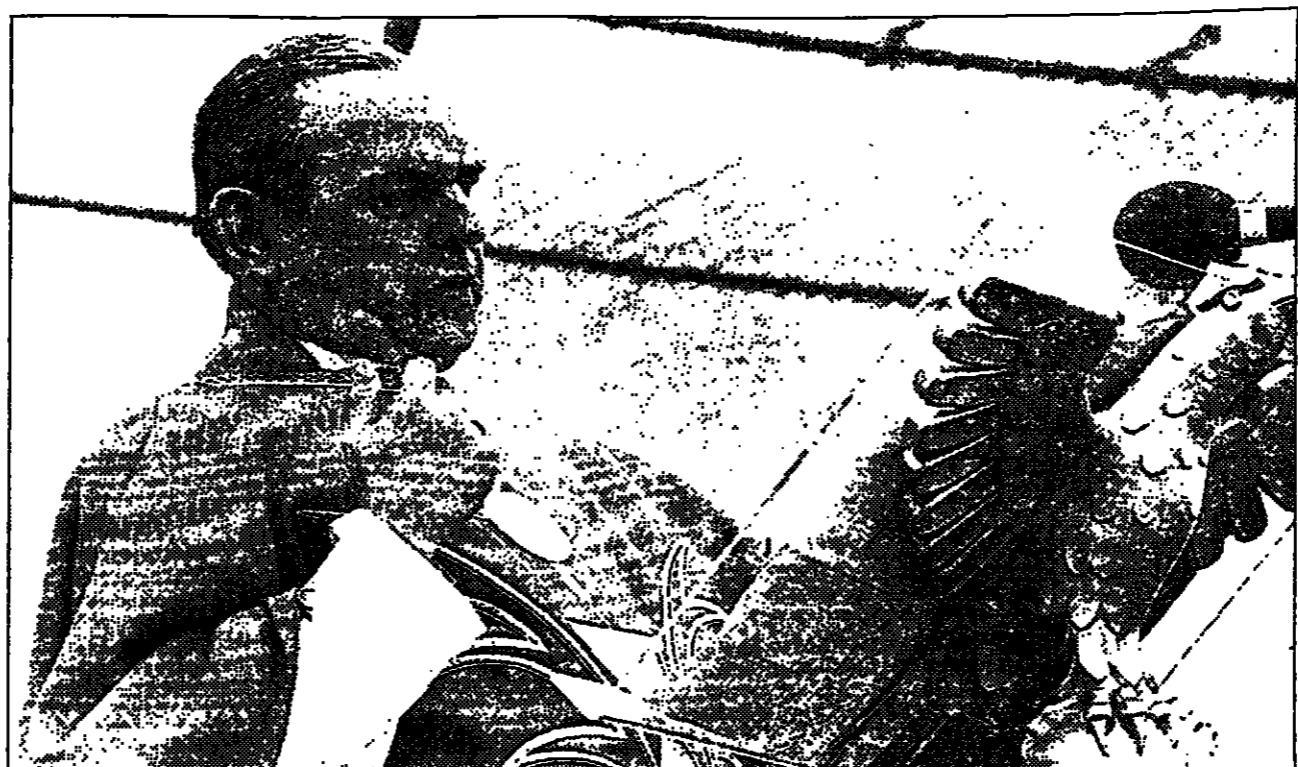
KENSINGTON PALACE

May 9: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Anglian Regiment, this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Longland on relinquishing the appointment as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Deed on assuming the appointment.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

May 9: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy today carried out engagements on Guernsey on the occasion of the Liberation Day Celebrations.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.



historical science *summa cum laude* and a thorough competence in French and German. After serving briefly as a Curate in Moy, County Tyrone, he became Lecturer in Modern History at Maynooth in 1953 and Professor of Modern History in 1959.

From this base he took part

in a number of extracurricular activities. He perfected his knowledge of the Irish language on successive holidays in Donegal and was chosen to be president of the association for Irish-speaking priests, *Cumann na Sagart*. He launched the competition *Glor na nGael* to promote the use of Irish in towns and villages throughout the country. State recognition came when the government invited him to chair the Commission on the Restoration of Irish and later to be chairman of *Comhairle na Gaeltachta*, the advisory council to oversee implementation of the Commission's findings. For many years he maintained a prolific output of lectures and articles on medieval Irish history.

In 1964 his fellow-graduates elected Father Ó Fiaich to the Senate of the National University of Ireland. He was also a member of the Higher Education Authority from 1972 to 1974. He became President of Maynooth in 1974 at a difficult time for the old institution, now part seminary-cum-papal university and part secular university within the Irish state system.

On August 23, 1977, Pope Paul VI nominated him to be the 113th Comharba Phádraig or successor of Saint Patrick in the See of Armagh. It was the first time in 110 years that a priest not already a bishop was elevated to the Primacy. At the consistory of June 1979 Pope John Paul II conferred the Cardinal's hat on Archbishop Ó Fiaich.

His episcopacy began on a fresh note, and indeed on an unusual platform, for an Irish Catholic Bishop. In a lengthy interview published by the *Belfast Telegraph* he suggested that the time had come for the Republic to consider adopting a new constitution. His reasoning was ecumenical: "a very short basic document", he said, would serve as a constitution acceptable to Catholics and Protestants alike.

Under his chairmanship, the Irish Bishops were to make

a number of progressive statements on international questions such as nuclear disarmament and the exploitation of the Third World. Economic measures at home, leading to unemployment and other social ills, was also criticized and the problems posed by sexual relationships in the modern world were spoken of at least in a caring tone.

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As President of the Irish episcopal conference, however, Cardinal Ó Fiaich conspicuously lacked the skill of his predecessor, Cardinal William Conway, in anticipating events. No agreed position had been formulated by the

Bishops in advance of the campaign in 1983 to write a prohibition of abortion into the Republic's constitution.

The Bishops were similarly left floundering in 1985 when the government introduced a measure to remove anomalies in the law regulating the sale of contraceptives. On each occasion a late intervention by Cardinal Ó Fiaich struck a moderately liberal note. He pointed out on behalf of the episcopal conference that Catholics could, in good faith, oppose constitutional change without incurring the charge of approving abortion.

However, in 1986 when the government proposed a further constitutional change which would have removed the ban on divorce in the so-called "dirty protest" at the time.

The Northern Ireland Office, Unionist opinion and the governing committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland rejected the Catholic

Primate's proposal on behalf of Northern Presbyterians (ie not merely the Paisleyites), remained slow to move. Protestant caution, in turn, was in some degree stimulated by the Primate's public appeals on behalf of Northern Catholics when they were meeting less than just treatment by the authorities.

In August, 1980, he spoke in outraged terms about conditions in the Maze prison. A number of prisoners were involved in the so-called "dirty protest" at the time.

The Northern Ireland Office, Unionist opinion and the governing committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland rejected the Catholic Primate's criticism on the ground that the prisoners were the authors of their own misfortune and were in any event convicted criminals.

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a number of progressive statements on international questions such as nuclear disarmament and the exploitation of the Third World. Economic measures at home, leading to unemployment and other social ills, was also criticized and the problems posed by sexual relationships in the modern world were spoken of at least in a caring tone.

The commitment to practical ecumenism continued.

At the annual Glensfall conference and elsewhere the Cardinal used to acknowledge the obligation on Catholics, as the largest body of Irish Christians, to make the greatest concession – in pursuit of the ecumenical ideal.

Sadly, the Cardinal failed to carry this commitment very far in inter-church dialogue, in theological discussion or in the pastoral practice of the

Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

It would be wrong to suppose that foot dragging in ecumenism in Ireland has been confined to the Roman Catholic Church. The reformed churches especially elements among mainstream

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This continued to be the case when he tried to explain why some people voted for Sinn Fein and when he campaigned for the release of persons who, he believed, had been convicted wrongly of IRA bombing outrages in Britain.

Many have spoken warmly of the Cardinal's readiness to listen and his human approach to all and sundry, including some traditional opponents. However, the new courtesies that followed the second Vatican Council were for him far from superficial. He was ready to be the humble learner, especially when he found sincerely held convictions which earned respect when they stemmed from the common ground of Christian teaching and charity. Together

the four Christian communions met regularly for shared worship, scripture studies and the seeking after initiatives for the making of peace and, where possible, the removal of injustices in contemporary society.

No tribute could omit mention of the spirit of cheerfulness which Tomás Ó Fiaich brought to many in their homes and parishes. His sociability and his joy in living were not quenched by the tragic sufferings which faced him through those years. He grieved deeply when the killings continued, when all kinds of distress, inside and outside prison, blighted the lives of those caught up in conflict. He spoke out spontaneously and openly with a forthrightness he had always possessed. He also prayed deeply and continually for signs of hope and new initiatives which would work together for good.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves have done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us...therefore we thank those who give us new birth and new life by washing us.

Titus 3 : 5

BIRTHS

ABDULFATTAH - On May 5th, in Stavanger, Norway, to Esma (née Karam) and a daughter, Katharina.

BAKER - On May 5th 1990, to Karen (née Reede) and Malcolm, a son, David Hugh Andrew.

CAPPY - On May 1st 1990, at St George's Hospital, St. John's Wood, London, a son, James Oliver Morris.

COLVILLE - On March 28th, in Fife, Scotland, to Jonathan, a daughter, Fleur Elizabeth, a sister for Tom, Dick and Harry.

COWARD - On Monday May 7th, at St Thomas' Hospital, to Fiona (née Maddock) and Robert, a daughter, Arabella Rose.

CROZEE - On May 8th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Rosemary (née Young) and a son, Daniel, Jessica Rose, a sister for Nicolas and Isabella.

DARNS - On May 8th 1990, at Great Yarmouth, to Phoebe (née Hughes) and Andrew, a son, Guy Cromwell George Batten.

EDWARD - On May 5th, at George's Hospital, London, to Rachel (née Holland) and Nigel, a daughter, Abigail Grace.

HARTLEY - On May 6th, to Jane (née Van den Berg) and Robert, a daughter, Timothy Louise.

JONES - On May 9th 1990, to Lee (née Cawright) and Nick, a son, George Augustus, a brother for Edward, Olivia and Fred.

KELLY - On May 1st, to Elizabeth (née Hartley) and Howard, a daughter, Kathryn Stan.

LAWRENCE - On April 28th, to Phillipine and Charlotte (née Grimes), a daughter, Francesca Kate Morna.

MADDOCKS - See Cooper.

PONTS - On May 7th, to Jane and Simon, a son, a daughter, Emma Natasha, a sister for Chloe.

READE - On May 8th 1990, at Waveney, to Helen and David, to Henrietta (née Montague) and David, a daughter, Rosanna Alice.

REINHOLD - On May 1st, to Susan and Alan, a son, Christopher, a daughter, Lauren Nancy.

Special thanks to all at Queen Mary's Roehampton.

ROBBINS - On April 19th, to Bryan and Linda, a son, Tristan Keith, a son, Philip.

ROBINSON - On May 5th 1990 to Philip and Helen (née Smith) and Olivia, a son, Joshua Michael.

SAYER - On May 3rd, to Jane (née Rogers-Collman) and Andrew, a son, Laurence John (Lauren), a daughter, Christopher.

SEDDON - On May 6th, to Clare (née Park) and Tony, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

SHERRIDAN - On May 4th, to The Leicester (née Parker) and Michael, a daughter, Araminta Clementine Rose, a sister for Freddie and Steve, a son, remembering darling little Max.

SHIRLEY - On May 8th 1990, to Pervena and Nick, a son, Edward Hugh, a brother for George.

SIMPSONS - On Friday May 4th, to Debbie (née Codd) and Mark, a son, Joshua James.

STEVENS - On April 18th 1990, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Sarah (née Traubert) and Nigel, a son, Liam.

VERBILLS - On March 30th, to Robert and Jill (née Barton), a son, Joshua Michael.

MARRIAGES

LYTHAMSTON - The marriage of Mr William Mansel Lynn and Miss Barbara (née Karr) of Allerton, Lancs, took place on Saturday April 26th 1990 in Colchester.

DEATHS

ADAMS - On May 2nd 1990, peacefully at home, in Dunmow, Dorothy, aged 93, very dearly loved mother of John.

ALLISON - On May 7th 1990, Dore J., O.B.E., peacefully. Funeral at Holy Trinity, Forest Row, East Sussex, on 16th May 1990, 1.15 pm. Flowers or donations call 0444 466 1777.

ARMSTRONG - Funeral at 10am, Dore J., O.B.E., peacefully. Funeral at Holy Trinity, Forest Row, East Sussex, on 16th May 1990, 1.15 pm. Flowers or donations call 0444 466 1777.

BOYD - On May 7th 1990, in London, much loved husband of Betty, stepmother of Louis and devoted mother of Liz and dear Denby, a son, Stephen. Tel 0171 274 2056 for full details.

COULSON - Peacefully at home, Brian (née Coulson) and grandmother of Stephen and Simon. Contact 0161 365 2065 for full details.

DAVIES - On May 7th 1990, suddenly at home in Windsor, John Studd, dear husband of Barbara and loving father of Andrew, a son, Laurence (Laure), a daughter, Christopher.

DEVON - On May 7th 1990, peacefully in London, to Peter, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

FRASER - On May 4th, in his 96th year, in his home in Kent, a son, Laurence (Laure), a daughter, Christopher.

GARRETT - On May 7th 1990, peacefully in London, to Peter, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

HARRIS - On May 7th 1990, peacefully in London, to Peter, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

HOLMES - On May 7th 1990, peacefully in London, to Peter, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

HORN - On May 7th 1990, peacefully in London, to Peter, a son, Dominic Oliver Leon.

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ARTS

It's my expensive opera ticket and I'll boo if I want to

Richard Morrison on the new readiness to register disapproval by dissatisfied audiences

British opera audiences, it seems, are stoic no longer. In the old days we would sit with tolerance through every producer's aberration and cracked top C. We might moderate our applause into a lukewarm trill, but rarely would we unleash the full punitive force of a boo.

There was a kind of Olympian attitude. The important thing, according to this code, was that these vast individuals had obviously expended much energy simply moving about the stage, not that they had given a wretched performance.

Alas, the world is harsher now. At Covent Garden on Monday a tenor in *"Il trovatore"* failed to hit the high notes at the end of "Di quella pira". That is, admittedly, the operatic equivalent of running

out of petrol on Hammersmith flyover in the rush-hour. Boozing started to interrupt the performance. Even more worrying, someone in the gallery pulled a cruel stunt which is common practice in Italy, but has never been done in England before: he shouted the Italian words which the tenor had failed to sing.

That caps a London operatic season which has sometimes been more notable for vocal contributions from the auditorium than from the stage. Boozing the production team has become almost *de rigueur* at the London Coliseum, when English National Opera reveals its latest "barbed wire and swastikas" version of Verdi.

ENO's management, moreover, appears to revel in the "not at the opera" treatment they are receiving on newspapers' front pages: it amounts to thousands of pounds in free advertising.

Why have British audiences suddenly started to behave like Italians? Is it something to do with 1992? Or a reaction to the ever-greater cost of going to the opera? Is it because some British listeners have learnt to differentiate between good singing and bad; or because those who like "traditional" stagings (with kings who wear crowns, and painted backcloths of rocks and forests), have overcome shocked speechlessness, and are shouting back?

We still have some way to go before we can match the full, boorish atmosphere of La Scala, Milan. The "cliques" there, who cheer their own favourites and boo everyone else's, have raised the art of vicious partisanship to a professional level — in every sense. Guest stars, unaware of local customs, are surprised to be visited before a performance by sinister-looking men who require "sweetening" before they can assure the singer that the audience will love every moment. It has been going on for centuries (the rivalry between the Callas and Tebaldi cliques was most notorious); but the coming of television to La Scala first nights has given

the boozers and hissers even greater possibilities for disruption.

Is it the strong and (let us be honest) usually crude emotions depicted on the operatic stage which encourage equally strong and crude behaviour from otherwise well-behaved middle-class patrons? Certainly, boozing is almost never heard in the West End's spoken theatre. Occasions such as the first night, in 1969, of Joe Orton's *"What the Butler Saw"* — when Ralph Richardson, Coral Browne and Stanley Baxter, required to engage in something steamily incestuous, received a ringing volley of boos for their pains — are famous precisely because they are rare. The irony is

that *"What the Butler Saw"* now has the status of a modern classic. Audience disapproval in the spoken theatre is more often expressed by the noisy walkout, whether from boredom or anger.

In the concert world, too, audience protest is regarded as the work of madmen, if it happens at all. A few years ago, a worthy English conductor was ploughing through Bach cantata in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, when a lady suddenly left her seat in the stalls, walked up to the podium, tapped the unfortunate maestro on the shoulder, and said: "What do you think you are doing?" Many in the hall thought it was a reasonable question, but she was gently led away without receiving a reply. There are still places where it just isn't done" to complain.

THE DOUGLAS BROTHERS

All hits at one remove

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Knussen
Birmingham Town Hall

THIS was a neat programme, of Schnittke's Fourth Symphony paired with extracts from Mussorgsky operas, the music of both composers throwing deep roots into Russian chant and bell sounds. The concert began with Mussorgsky, with *Night on the Bare Mountain*, in a performance of savage brilliance. Oliver Knussen had the Birmingham orchestra making big, fat sounds cut with electric sharpness.

After that came a snapshot view of *Khovanshchina*, incorporating the prelude, Marfa's aria, the hieratic Act IV *entr'acte* and the finale of confident prayer from the flames. There followed the coronation scene from *Boris*, distinguished by the superb, thickly Russian and commanding tsar of Stephen Richardson and also by lively acclamations from the CBSO Chorus, slicing through the over-loud recorded bells.

This was altogether a treat of a tour through Mussorgsky's greatest hits, though in a sense none of the music was actually by Mussorgsky: *Night on the Bare Mountain* and the *Boris* excerpt were done in the ubiquitous Rimsky-Korsakov arrangements, and the *Khovanshchina* suite crammed in orchestrations by Shostakovich, Stokowski and Stravinsky, of whom Stravinsky took the medal for discretion.

Somewhat in the same way, none of the music in Schnittke's Fourth Symphony is actually by Schnittke, since the work, playing for an unbroken and generally slow 40 minutes, is a compilation from Jewish, Orthodox and western Christian chants.

It is as if the composer were being heard from behind a curtain, sometimes thumping hard at the old heavy velvet (much of the piano writing is crashing and bass-heavy: David Horne, amplified, made it accusatory in its power and intensity), elsewhere seeming to let events take their course, as in the laments for solo tenor and mezzo, passionately sung here by Hugh Hetherington and Mary King, or the final choral prayer, all wordless.

Perhaps this is the music of a silenced church: one longs to know what Schnittke is hearing in the new Russia.

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonia/Inbal
Festival Hall

FOR all her undoubtedly talent, Mitsuko Uchida has perhaps become unfairly typecast in the Mozart piano repertory. She went about as far as she could go in a different direction to exploit the keyboard's chordal and percussive qualities in the first and most uncompromising of Bartók's Concertos. Inexorable rhythmic pressure was maintained, and she was not at all fazed by demands on technique which at one point require double-octave chords to be struck with the thumb of each hand applied to a black and white key simultaneously.

Elijah Inbal and the Philharmonia went part way to realizing the composer's wishes about percussion, positioning only the side-drums (with and without snare) close to the pianist instead of the fuller battery, and allowing slightly more strings than Bartók specified. The pianist was able to pick up some added resonance from the close drum taps; to contrast linear clarity with chromatic complexity, and to bring logical conviction to disjunct passage-work in the interests of a persuasive performance.

The conductor prefaced the Magyar features of Bartók with the *Dances from Galanta* by his fellow Hungarian, Kodály, using varied rhythm to build and release tension in a highly pictorial way. After the break the orchestra were taken into even more graphic detail with the musical dance-images of *Petrushka*. Stravinsky's dazzling ballet is worth hearing divorced from the theatre only when, as here, it is played in the original large-scale orchestration, reminding us how much is lost by the later reduced version now commonly forced on dance performances.

Its one curious feature is the prominent *concertante* piano part in the first two scenes, which is then abandoned for all the rest. Here it added the requisite glitter and poignancy to the texture we heard, and moderate speeds were favoured on the whole, except for a solo trumpet in the Ballerina's Dance taken too fast for comfort and the tambourine that signals the necessary smack of finality. Otherwise the shaded and balanced detail renewed the excitement of the whole.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SAT 12TH MAY 7.30 pm

BRAHMS

WHEN ORCHESTRA OF LONDON
ELIARD DAYAN WESTON cond.

HENRY HERFORD bar.

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Spirit of reconciliation

Jeremy Harding reports on David Lan's new play, which is set in Zimbabwe at the end of the war of independence, and has its first performance tonight in London

The trilogy of plays completed by *Desire* has taken South Africa-born playwright, David Lan, a decade to complete. Set in a peasant community in northern Zimbabwe in 1980, just after the war of independence, *Desire* hinges on a strange sickness affecting Rosemary, an innocent young villager who never took up arms during the conflict.

As Rosemary's illness grows, it becomes clear that the spirit of a dead Zimbabwean guerrilla — another young woman, named Freedom — wishes to communicate through her.

If this seems a little fanciful, we should consider David Lan's own background. In 1980, he was doing fieldwork in northern Zimbabwe among the Shona people. Lan was working as an ethnographer; he was interested in the wartime alliance he had heard of between the spirit mediums in the rural areas of Zimbabwe, and equilibrium was the key to its survival: in trance, the spirit mediums gave a voice to the dead ancestors, who in turn offered counsel to the community and assured the continuing validity of ancient customs in a period of great upheaval.

At the same time, the guerrillas themselves, in their beliefs and conduct, were mediums of political change, through which peasant communities could hear their future whispering. One former guerrilla explained how, on entering an area for the first time, he and his comrades were taken to see an elderly spirit medium.

"We told her, 'We are the children of Zimbabwe, we want to liberate Zimbabwe.' She was very interested. She knew much about the war and the regulation of the war. She said: 'This forest is very, very difficult for you to penetrate', but she gave us directions. She told us what kind of food to eat, which routes to take, what part of the forest we were not allowed to stay or sleep in, where we were not allowed to fight."

"She said we were forbidden to go with girls and she taught us how to interpret many signs in the forest which would allow us to live in safety and to know when our enemy was near."

An old woman who is not what she appears to be: an injunction to chastity, a dark wood of endeavour with its coded sanctuaries and pitfalls; beyond the tangle of the forest, the object of the struggle: peace and a stable moral universe . . . This is the kind of material we expect to find in Chrétien de Troyes or Malory. In fact, the meeting took place in 1971. It was typical of the entente between the ancestors and the "children of Zimbabwe", shuddering rifles and convening popular committees in the bush.

In the cause of modern democracy — a theme which runs through Lan's new play — the ancient spirit mediums appear as instruments of virtue. Yet *Desire* does not invest religion with some primary goodness. Instead, it considers what can happen to religious belief when states and cultures are subjected to pressure — as they are in the course or aftermath of open conflict.

In *Desire* an old belief-system is called upon to solve a problem arising out of a modern liberation struggle. It succeeds, and acquires new meaning in the process. Yet the machinery of the resolution is

part of a deeply traditional cosmology, described by Lan in *Guns and Rain*.

"Ancestors", he tells us, "have no material form and so can be in all places at the same time . . . They can see and hear, they have emotions and desires. But they are never frivolous or mean. The welfare of their descendants is their sole concern. There is only one reason why they might make a descendant ill: to give a sign that they wish to possess her or him, to speak through her or his mouth to their descendants to warn that disaster is about to strike."

Rosemary's sickness, and the reason for it, may be specific, but the impending disaster is general, not only to the characters in the play, but to the fabric of a modern African state emerging from a bitter war. The play suggests that political disaster will befall a nation which fails to honour the aspirations of its freedom-fighters, and that cultural disaster will befall it, in a changing world, the living failing to accommodate the voices of the dead. The remedy for Rosemary's sickness is only possible if memory overcomes neglect.

"Death is like a weir in a river," Lan writes of Shona cosmology.



David Lan: The play relates to his work as an ethnographer

"For a while the flow of life is held up. The current eddies round and round and streams back on itself as the process of dying and burial get underway. But then the weirs gates are winched open and the flow of life continues, though now on a different level. Women and

men with their limited powers, their ignorance and weaknesses, have been transformed into ancestors . . ."

● *Desire* is previewing at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (071 359 4404) from tonight and opens on Monday.

Ambition mars the splendour of his scorn

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Fashion
Tricycle

IT IS good to find this play belying its title with a revival three full years after the Royal Shakespeare Company first sent it splashing like vitriol over the footlights. Doug Lucie is perhaps the only young British dramatist with a truly distinctive voice; and in *Fashion* it is at its most splendidly scornful, bilious and charming.

Michael Pavlinka's set, with its steel-grey walls and black furniture, makes an apt home for an ad agency with a client not exactly to Lucie's liking: the Conservative Party. Nor is he enraptured with

the men airbrushing its image. These include an ex-Labour MP turned television interviewer, played by the Tebbit lookalike Robin Soans with an improbably slimy smirk, and a socialist film-maker who needs the jolly, played by Jim Carter as a big, awkward bull steeling himself to life in a china shop.

However, Lucie moves beyond mere ire to a sort of grisly fascination when he comes to the agency's boss. He calls him Paul Cash, as dramatists of earlier eras named their less lovely characters John Brute or Lord Avarice. His main interest is coining success, never mind how. Indeed, he has a line in quotable candour: "Advertising is the revenge of business on culture, and 'I tell lies for a living, for whoever pays me, to those who can't afford to pay me.' Yet as Paul Freeman plays him

— stealthy, watchful, yet subtly uneasy behind his feline mask — he is not just some scabrous caricature. He never goes home, wanders naked round his office at night, has an affair with the film-maker's wife, and contemptuously gives his rent-boy a job, arguing that this boy will toughen up the agency. There is frustration in the cynicism; dimly perceived pain and a hint of self-hatred, too.

Michael Atttenborough, here a competent if uninspired director, might have encouraged Lucie to explore these contradictions further without compromising his play's savagery. As it is, he spreads his claws too wide. This is a play about image-making, image-makers.

It is a revenge comedy, with businessman Cash relishing the sexual betrayal and political corruption of his old chum the film-director, and a subplot in

which an embryonic "leaderene" ruins a trad Tilly. It also inspires to be a debate about divided Britain.

One problem is that, while references to poll tax riots, the Lawson abdication and changes in Romania have been added, Lucie's updating does not take adequate notice of the slump in Tory fortunes. The admens can, it seems, still push a Thatcher clone to electoral triumph. Worse, Lucie sometimes twists character to help his plot or make a point, never more embarrassingly than when he expects sympathy for the self-serving woman who suddenly, inspiringly cries, "Socialism hasn't failed Britain, it's never been tried."

Psychologically, dramatically, it is a phoney moment. Lucie is too scathing a satirist convincingly to be "positive". He is, if you like, the victim of his own strengths.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Iodine, not intimacy: Rupert Frazer (right) tends Angus Pope

The incidental detail is better than this. The evocative background sounds (Mike Walker's cricket) bleed on about his main story. Major Tilly, a cricket bore in love with nobody, cracks into life in Shaughn Seymour's brisk performance where the other characters can only dither at their creases and be clearly bowled by the demon of love. Unfortunately, their dithering fills most of the innings.

Frewen's peripheral dialogue is also firmer than his main story.

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Frewen restricts his focus, however, to the pains of hopeless love, and with Brind (Rupert Frazer) bleating on about his childhood — "I was a lonely boy" — and Trepan (John Moulder-Brown) carefully arranging his hands (occuriously raising puzzled eyebrows), our interest in these two horsemen peters out.

This is a ticklish moment in Christopher Renshaw's adequate production, for we should be able to tell from the way the poem is spoken that Hart can only simulate devotion. Despite his name, he has no heart. The tremor in Angus Pope's voice makes the

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giving a demonstration of his electronic instrument, whose computerized circuits allow him to imitate a Hammond organ, a flute or even a massed choir. One sound that the machine does not reproduce quite so well is that of the vibraphone itself: the tone is thinner and more brittle than usual.

A long medley, built around "Love Can Bring Us Back Together", brought the set to a suitably rousing conclusion. Anyone seeking a banquet of fusion music should visit the club next week, when the support slot is occupied by the jazz-rock group

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ARTS

Ruthless, but well mannered: Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*

The handsome A Martinez (the "A" seems to be without a full-stop, the indefinite article rather than an initial) appears in a very different role to that of his gigolo in *She-Devil*, in *Pewwww Highway* (15, Electric), a film of admirable intentions but rather uncertain execution. Scripted by Janet Heaney and Jean Stawarz from a novel by David Seals, it is a road film about present-day American Indians. A

Martinez plays a fiery activist opposing the efforts of a big mining company to cheat the tribespeople on a Cheyenne reservation out of their land. The company and the federal police set out to silence him by framing his sister on a drugs charge, but he sets off to rescue her, taking to the road in a broken-down car in the company of a fat, simple-minded fellow-tribesman. Martinez and Gary Farmer are

likeable, and the film scores some effective points from the contrast of Martinez's modern Indian battling against the Third World conditions to which his people are condemned in modern America, and his romantic companion dreaming of bringing back the heroic days and the ghosts of old gods and warriors.

There is a sense, though, that a lot of the script has been mislaid somewhere en route, for some

CINEMA
David Robinson

of the looks of Nastassja Kinski or Isabella Rossellini, but more vitality and range than either. She convincingly makes the transformation from underfed hooker to society lady. Her face is always registering the rapid passage of feelings; her most magical scene is the tart's first experience of opera, and her instinctive, tearful response to (what else) *La traviata*.

The story is mostly set in a hotel of the opulent grandeur that only Hollywood can today provide. There are some quite nasty asides to demonstrate that in American society, clothes make – or brutally break – the woman; and some sharp portraits (Hector Elizondo and Larry Miller) of the snobishness of hotel staff and shop owners, who are obsequious or insulting, as occasion demands.

Meryl Streep, abandoning phoney foreign accents and soulful airs, is revealed as a spirited, if not very varied comedienne in *She-Devil* (15, Odeon Leicester Square). The change to the title of Fay Weldon's novel *The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil* reflects the way it has been reduced to a one-

joke comedy. Streep plays the predatory millionaire hack writer of soft-core romantic novels. The she-devil is Roseanne Barr, a plump lady who looks like an unfortunate sister of Elizabeth Taylor, and affects an assortment of horrible facial moles.

When Streep makes off with her philandering accountant husband (Ed Begley Jr), Barr displays the full fury of a woman scorned. With solemn, demonic dedication, she strips him of all he cherishes: home, children, career and, finally, liberty.

There is a vestige of Fay Weldon's feminist purpose in the film's reflections on unfaithful husbands, rapacious women and the unfair premiums placed on female looks, but mostly it is reduced to camp caricature comedy: a style which the director, Susan Seidelman, at least sustains consistently in the performances and the fantasy setting of the romance queen's seaside palace.

A creeping monotony in the action and the central performances is relieved by one or two funny supporting roles: Sylvia Miles as Streep's harried mother, weighing in with a cupboard full of skeletons; diminutive Linda Hunt as a fierce geriatric nurse, and A Martinez as a pouting gigolo boy.

The stock story is well suited by Wafer Hill's special brand of neo-blued *film noir* pastiche and his choice of actors (Rourke, Ellen Barkin, Morgan Freeman, Lance Henriksen).

Meryl Streep: Spirited millionaire writer in *She-Devil*

This one says: "They changed his future – could they change his past?" It is a classic fatalistic *film noir* plot, with the urge for revenge irresistibly dragging the criminal hero back to his past, despite the appearance of good angels.

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There are no surprises in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5 – The Dream Child* (15, Cannon Haymarket). The special effects are better than ever, and often imaginative in design; but the price of watching still further manifestations of the awful Freddy Krueger, and disentangling the dreams of the pretty youngsters of Elm Street is too high a price to pay for them. The director is Stephen Hopkins.

Jingoism's galaxy of junk

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

THE British have always been at their best in excavations and museums, and television from Sir Mortimer Wheeler onward was quick to realize the potential for creating archaeological and curatorial superstars.

Last night's schedules seemed unusually full of frustrated curators on the rampage. While for *An Architectural Alphabet of Britain* (BBC 2) Lucy Lambton excavated a now-defunct watch and clock shop in Leeds, Tariq Ali's *Rear Window* (Channel 4), an uneven replacement for *Signdad*, gave itself over to an entire programme about the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford.

The Pitt-Rivers is, in many ways, the perfect British museum. It is nearly impossible to find, being situated within another university museum and then closed for 22 hours every weekday and all day Sunday. Once you have found it open, the Pitt-Rivers turns out to be a kind of geographical junk shop, assembled by a Victorian colonialist general.

Castanets made of nuts, musical whips, shrunken heads, and the statue of a man with an octopus on his head and two fish down his trousers, were all lovingly, and one suspects usually forcibly, removed from their natural overseas habitats and taken to Oxford a century or so ago. This was in anticipation of the day when Sir David Attenborough and Barry Cunliffe would stand around enthusing about Australian Aboriginal baby-carriers and Tahitian wooden head-rests, apparently carved for unusually small heads.

One black schoolgirl managed to get the word "Kafir" crossed off the general's old labels, on the grounds that it is insulting, though not perhaps as insulting as his requirement that all exhibit definitions should be kept brief because the working classes did not have much interest in reading.

The truth, is that the Pitt-Rivers is not so much a museum as an archive, full of old family treasures which nobody really wants but somehow ought not to be thrown away.

Hoarding for patriotic reasons has also always been a curiously British obsession, as is the passion for turning unwanted household implements into something even more useless. Denied, since the end of the Second World War, the opportunity of sending our old milk bottle-tops off in the post for recycling into aircraft carriers, we now carry large numbers of old empty bottles around the country in a perpetual search for something useful to do with them.

Dispatches, on Channel 4 last night, followed a Brighton housewife desperate to sort, squash, and otherwise rearrange her household rubbish as per Chris Patten's instructions at the last Tory Party Conference, where we were told to recycle at least half our waste. It soon became apparent from Jane Spence's documentary that Patten himself is not exactly eager to receive several hundred thousand tin cans at his office address. Perhaps we could send them to the Pitt-Rivers Museum, instead.

Ad men subtract from movie magic

Glossy advertising styles are taking the place of true cinematic values, says Geoff Brown

One aspect overlooked by *Washes Whiter*, the BBC's fascinating, if exhausting, survey of British television advertising, was the contribution of the commercials-director. Watching the series, a viewer from Mars might suppose that these 30-second hymns to consumer culture were entirely the work of the advertising executives.

Not so: over the years, an army of grown men has earned a living consolidating the package of images, emotions and slogans designed to implant in our unconscious the burning desire to buy, buy, buy.

There is a specialized trade, with distinguished British antecedents – think of the pre-war achievements of the GPO Film Unit, the posters for London Transport and Shell, and other examples of enlightened commercial art – but it can also be a dangerous one, particularly if practised to excess. There is more to life than consumer goods, and there is a danger when directors leap from the 30-second commercial designed to sell a product to the 100-minute feature designed to tell a story. When we see a film by Alan Parker or Adrian Lyne on television, we can be certain where it ends and the commercials begin?

Prominent cinema names have lent their skills to the small screen's commercials ever since Gibbs SR toothpaste got the genre rolling on the opening night of independent television in September 1955. Ken Russell flexed his muscles on *Black Magic* chocolates; John Schlesinger spent the Swinging Sixties championing Stork, Polo mints and End's liver salts. Joseph Losey leavened his earnest endeavours with a little Ruyita and Horlicks, while Lindsay Anderson's portfolio embraced Kellogg's cornflakes, Guinness Ewbank carpet sweepers and Iron Jelloids.

Full, and focused

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Flavio

Salle Garnier,
Monte Carlo

IMAGINE the story of Romeo and Juliet, with its entire parental dosier tangled tiresomely into one of the more tedious episodes in the ancient history of the kings of Lombardy. That is Handel's *Flavio*, most irrational of all irrational entertainments, and currently and improbably, top of the French classical charts. In the still more improbable setting of Monte Carlo's Casino-opera House, it became clear why.

René Jacobs, who conducts both in Monaco and on disc,



Sixties advertising: Selling a product on the aura it bestows, rather than on price and function

atmospheres, spinning dreams and conjuring lifestyles with clothes, decor and accoutrements. For as David Puttnam – himself an important alumnus of commercials – observed during *Washes Whiter*, it was only in the early days that advertisements had transformed him into an Elephant Man lookalike, with speech impaired by a cleft palate and hare-lip. He is imprisoned for armed robbery, and his cause is taken up by a surgeon, who transforms him into Mickey Rourke.

The writers of film publicity slogans sometimes display admirable skill in catching the essence of a story. The posters for

one say: "They changed his future – could they change his past?" It is a classic fatalistic *film noir* plot, with the urge for revenge irresistibly dragging the criminal hero back to his past, despite the appearance of good angels.

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NEW YORK STORIES (Buena Vista, 15): Uneven trilogy from three major directors: abrasive drama from Martin Scorsese; rioting *Whimsy* from Francis Ford Coppola; delicious laughter from Woody Allen, 1989.

SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE (Virgin, 18): Last year's American discovery – a deliciously poised study of human deception and sexual frustrations from newcomer Steven Soderbergh, 1989.

HEAVEN (20:20 Vision, 15): The 12th-century romance of Abelard and Heloise, decked in the bland panoply of a television costume drama. Derek de Lint and Kim Thomson battle against a script without punch or spice, 1989.

THIS SPORTING LIFE (Pickwick, 12): Lindsay Anderson's powerful film of David Storey's novel primarily concerns the cruel pains of love and success. Fierce acting from Richard Harris in the days when he was still malleable, 1963.

TWISTER (Vestron, 15): Unrewarding American oddity which bypassed British cinemas, featuring Harry Dean Stanton as the laid-back head of a crazy family airing their eccentricities in the teeth of a hurricane. A first film for writer-director Michael Apted, 1996.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (Pickwick, 12): Thoroughly theatrical but delicious version of Wilde's play, festooned with plush Victorians. The queen of the show is Edith Evans' Lady Bracknell, 1952.

WIRED (Entertainment in Video, 12): Cocky biography of self-destructive comedian John Belushi (ably impersonated by newcomer Michael Chiklis), 1989.

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Lena Lootens sings Emilia

HEALTH

Hidden hazards in the calendar of the oyster eater

ASKED if modern oyster farming made it safe to eat an oyster when there wasn't an "it" in the month, David Fitzsimons, director of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, replied: "In general it is still a good adage, but even so I don't look at the calendar when I'm offered oysters, but rely upon my hostess and the public health service to make certain that they have come from an uncontaminated source."

A quick glance at the statistics on the outbreaks of food poisoning due to shellfish — most are traced back to oysters — shows that the greater the likelihood of a year having a good claret vintage, so also is there a greater chance that it will be a bad year for oyster poisoning. For both grapes and water-borne infections flourish in a hot summer. The number of outbreaks in Britain every year varies between two and 15 and averages around nine, usually striking groups of people. In Australia, it seems that the climatic conditions needed for an outbreak are different. This year, which has been abnormally wet, oyster lovers in Sydney have had to contend with more shellfish poisoning than in any year since 1978. Australian health experts blame the dilution of the salt in the river by upstream flood waters, which have also washed in more pollution than usual.

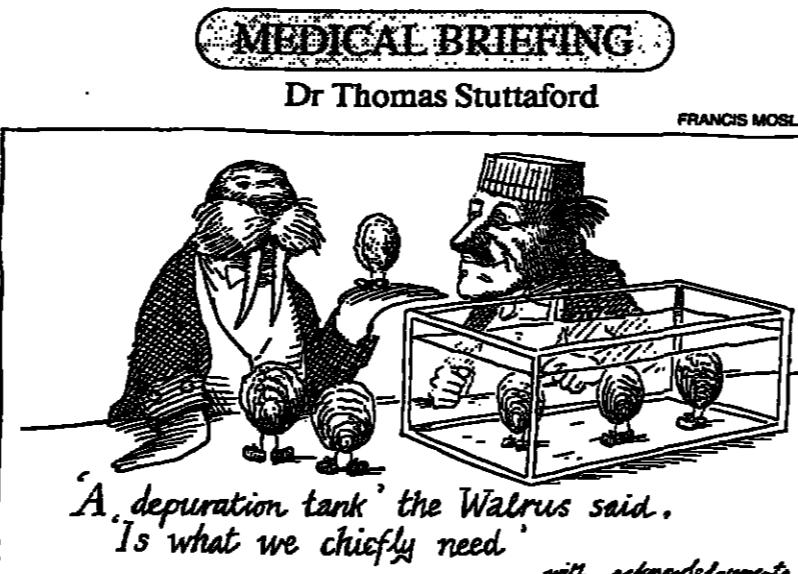
Oysters are filter-feeders: in the combined process of breathing and feeding, an active oyster filters many gallons of water a day through its gills. In cold weather, an oyster almost hibernates; in hot weather its activity increases and more water is filtered. And, also because of the warm weather, it is more likely to be contaminated by viruses and bacteria. In the filtering

process, particles of food as well as pathogenic organisms are caught on the sticky under-surface of the gills, from where they can be swept into the funnel-shaped mouth and passed through the oyster's stomach and guts before being ejected some hours after entering the shell. The bacteria are discharged with other undigested debris, but viruses remain in the oyster's flesh.

After being collected, oysters are subjected to a purification process known to health workers as depuration, and to oyster fishermen as plumping or laying out. The procedure involves keeping the oyster, for a time, in clean water, where it will flush out any bacteria which might have been lurking in its digestive system. It is a comparatively efficient way of eliminating bacteria, but not viruses, including the enterovirus and hepatitis A, which are now responsible for more oyster food poisoning than typhoid, paratyphoid and other bacteria.

Another expert was not as trusting as Dr Fitzsimons. Conscious of the bacteria he can see down his microscope and the viruses he cannot, he said: "Eat oysters? I wouldn't dream of it, not at any time of the year, regardless of the month. Even when shellfish are cooked they're not always cooked for long enough to kill harmful organisms."

But, while he may have saved himself from food poisoning, he has missed out on valuable nutrients. Oysters contain vitamin A, B and C, and are particularly rich in B. Portion for portion they provide more iron and copper than liver, so it is not surprising that in Victorian times, when they were cheap, oysters were a valuable part of the working man's diet.



Virgin territory

As the furor after the recent butchers' dinner has demonstrated, John Selwyn Gummer, churchman and Agriculture Minister, has the art of expressing a view succinctly; not so long ago he attacked the premise of the Bishop of Durham that there could be a state of symbolic virginity by suggesting that the bishop's argument would not have found favour with the mothers of any daughters he knew.

Last week, the High Court judge who awarded £20,000 slander damages to a woman whose husband had implied that she had lost her virginity before her wedding night evidently saw virginity,

and its diagnosis, in the same clear-cut way as the minister does.

In pre-Second World War days, when the emphasis on the need for pre-nuptial virginity was more widespread, a textbook of forensic medicine listed the "tell-tale signs" which the astute doctor should note as the clues to a woman's past sexual experience.

The doctor was advised not merely to examine the genital region, but also to study the woman's general demeanour.

For the author felt, like the hostess in one of Evelyn Waugh's novels, that the loss of virginity altered a patient's deportment. If all else failed, examination of the breasts might provide the answers, for they were supposed to

change in shape, and the nipples in colour, after sexual experience as well as child bearing.

Contemporary gynaecology textbooks were already teaching that these signs were nonsense and that even after a gynaecological examination it is usually impossible to be certain if a woman is a virgin. The cardinal sign of loss of virginity in popular mythology is the presence or absence of a hymen, a thin perforated membrane which occludes the vaginal entrance; but experience shows that this membrane, when present, is in all shapes and sizes, and may even be virtually absent; consequently, the best a doctor can usually say is "probably is" or "probably isn't".

Despite medical doubts, the hymen is still regarded in many cultures as being of such value that young, rich brides who have a deficient one, for whatever reason, come to London to make good their loss, in the Harley Street area, there are several doctors who are skilled in the plastic surgery needed. The operation is not cheap — it will probably cost about £1,000 — and requires a general anaesthetic.

One surgeon who has made a mini-specialty of the subject said that he had achieved such beautiful results that they would deceive the most worldly husband. He feels that if any defect is so important to a patient that it can upset her enjoyment of life, it is a doctor's duty to try to correct it.

Patients' and doctors' views on what constitutes virginity often vary, to the point where diagnosis can become confused. Often, the patient's belief could be described as symbolic virginity, for some feel that as long as a

condom is worn virginity is not lost, and others resort to practices which they feel are still compatible with virginity but which would surprise the bishop and amaze their mothers.

Going for the throat

An opera audience can be lavish with its praise, but when disapproving is savage and makes no allowances. Last Monday the audience booed and jeered when Walter Donati's voice failed in his Covent Garden début. He struggled on through *Il Trovatore*, but — possibly wisely — avoided the curtain call.

Laryngitis, a minor inflammation of the laryngeal chords and surrounding tissue, is usually due to infection, either viral or bacterial, an allergy or even an exposure to irritant dust pollens or tobacco smoke. But in Mr Donati's case, the cause was probably a "first-night throat", for although he is a mature singer, he was not only making his first appearance at Covent Garden but also standing in for another tenor.

A first-night throat is usually no more than a dry larynx caused by anxiety inducing changes in catecholamine levels; it produces a sensation familiar to anyone who has experienced fear. It is possible that such was Mr Donati's enthusiasm to do well that he over-trained — excessive use of the voice can also induce temporary laryngitis — but the probability is that, if there was no infection, initially he was suffering from a first-night throat and that by continuing to sing he reduced his throat to a condition where it was described as "red raw, and bloody". A decision will be taken later on whether he will sing tomorrow night.

BREATHING SPACE: GEORGE MELLY



'In the evening I have gin, wine and probably a couple of brandies, which for me is practically being teetotal'

temptation is more spaghetti, bread, potatoes, fried things.

I'm very fond of alcohol, but I drink a minute amount compared with what I did at one period in my life, when I drank at least a bottle of brandy a night plus gins and things during the day. Now I'll have a dry sherry around noon, maybe a glass of wine at lunch and then in the evening I'll have two or three gin and tonics and half a bottle of wine and probably a couple of brandies, which for me is practically being teetotal.

I never exercise. I hate it. I've loathed it since I was a child. I'll walk from A to B if it's not too far, and I fly-fish a lot. To those who don't know about fishing it may seem that you just sit. But you do not: you walk, you wade, you travel several miles a day, and also there's a lot of activity in the arms and shoulder muscles. But that is my only form of exercise.

Up until about six months ago I was smoking about 80 cigarettes a day and then I began to have some difficulty with breathing, so I've stopped, more or less, with occasional lapses late at night, and the odd cigar when it all becomes unbearable.

My loss of hearing happened gradually, probably due to being exposed to loud

noises for most of my life, although it didn't happen until I was 50, not 25, like rock people. Not everyone becomes deaf from noise, but I must have had some inherent condition. It's not too bad because I wear a hearing aid, but I have problems with high notes and consonants so sometimes I'll answer a question in a nonsensical, mad way. For example, I'll hear: "Is your smile comfortable?" instead of "Who's the chief constable?"

I don't feel heat or cold much. I can wear a thick suit on the hottest day and I'm fine on the coldest day without a suit and I've always had perfect blood pressure. Knowing a bit about my lifestyle, the doctor is always surprised that it is boringly, classically correct when I have a check-up. I had very bad pneumonia three years ago and nearly died of flu as a child, and there was a burst ulcer in the early Sixties. No repetition of same, didn't need operating on, didn't need a blood transfusion — I'm quite tough, physically.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

Scars that outlive the memory of a mauling

Dog attacks on children pose terrible problems for doctor and victim, writes Lee Rodwell

Four-year-old Caroline Williams — who needed 200 stitches in her face after an attack by a Rottweiler and an alsatian — has gone home from hospital and appears to be well on the way to recovery at her home in Dudley, West Midlands.

Some children are not so lucky. Each year, thousands of children are taken to accident and emergency units for treatment after having been bitten by dogs. Many of the injuries are relatively minor, but what happened to Caroline — and 23-month-old Ryan Bedwell of Reading, Berkshire, who was bitten in the face on Tuesday by a Jack Russell terrier — is no isolated incident. A spate of dog attacks in the past year has resulted in severe injury and even death.

Doctors know that dog bites pose particular problems for child victims. David Sharpe, consultant plastic surgeon at St Luke's Hospital in Bradford, says: "Dog bites are often quite deep, so they can cause pockmarks. Skin and muscle are usually loosely separated, but when scarring forms between them, as it may with dog bites, the skin can become tethered to the muscle beneath."

Apart from the puncture marks caused by a dog's teeth, there is likely to be further damage caused by the child trying to pull away. Mr Sharpe says: "Wedges of tissue may be torn out. Normally, you would rebuild these areas using the original components. You try to use local tissue because of the colour match. Skin grafts are occasionally necessary, but they are not as satisfactory and produce a red and unattractive scar."

One of the problems with dog bites on a child's face is that pieces may have been torn out of the nose, lips or eyelids. This is highly specialized tissue and is difficult to rebuild. If half the upper lip is ripped away, the only way to repair it is to use part of the lower lip.

Plastic surgeons are aware that the way we look is more than a matter of vanity. "The two key areas where people notice deformities are the eyes and the lips because that is how we signal beauty," Mr Sharpe says. "When you are operating you have to be aware that a millimetre out in alignment around eyelids and mouth can be immediately obvious. There have been times when I have deliberately built in a slight smile."

A child who is savaged by a dog is likely to be treated in two stages. Oliver Fenton, consultant plastic surgeon at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, says: "A dog bite causes a relatively blunt injury, so there will be damaged and dead tissue around the edges of the wound. This is a good medium for bacteria [although a dog's bite is not nearly as bad as a human's in terms of the risk of infection]. So, initially, the wounds need to be cleaned. A plastic surgeon would normally make the wound slightly



Recovering: Caroline Williams, aged four, leaves hospital with her mother Denise

bigger in order to remove any bacteria and dead tissue and to get sharper, straighter edges which tend to give better primary healing when sutured together.

Doing this may also give you the opportunity to choose the direction the scar will go in. The body is made up of relaxed skin tension lines. Scars placed within these will heal well; scars which cross them at right angles will heal badly."

After this, Mr Fenton says, it is a case of "wait and see". "There are two types of scars:



Caroline after the attack

hospital, it may be possible to do a definitive repair then.

There have been advances — suture material has improved, and magnification techniques offer better alignment.

There is no guarantee every victim of a dog attack will be treated by a plastic surgeon. How important is this? Mr Fenton says: "If a child of mine was badly bitten by a dog, I would prefer the case to be dealt with by someone experienced in the management of soft tissue trauma, if the child has been severely bitten on the

muscle beneath." ing them less conspicuous. For example, a scar which runs across a cheek may be broken up so the patient is left with a scar that drops into a natural mark, such as the line which runs from the nose to the edge of the mouth.

The fact that the young heel faster than the old is not necessarily an advantage, Mr Fenton says. "The young also lay down a lot of scar tissue, which means their scars are more noticeable. On older people the skin is looser — you can throw more away. On a five-year-old's face there is nothing to spare."

A child may also carry psychological scars. Eileen Bradbury is the only full-time clinical counsellor in plastic surgery in Britain. She assesses and counsels children and their parents in the Leeds and Bradford areas.

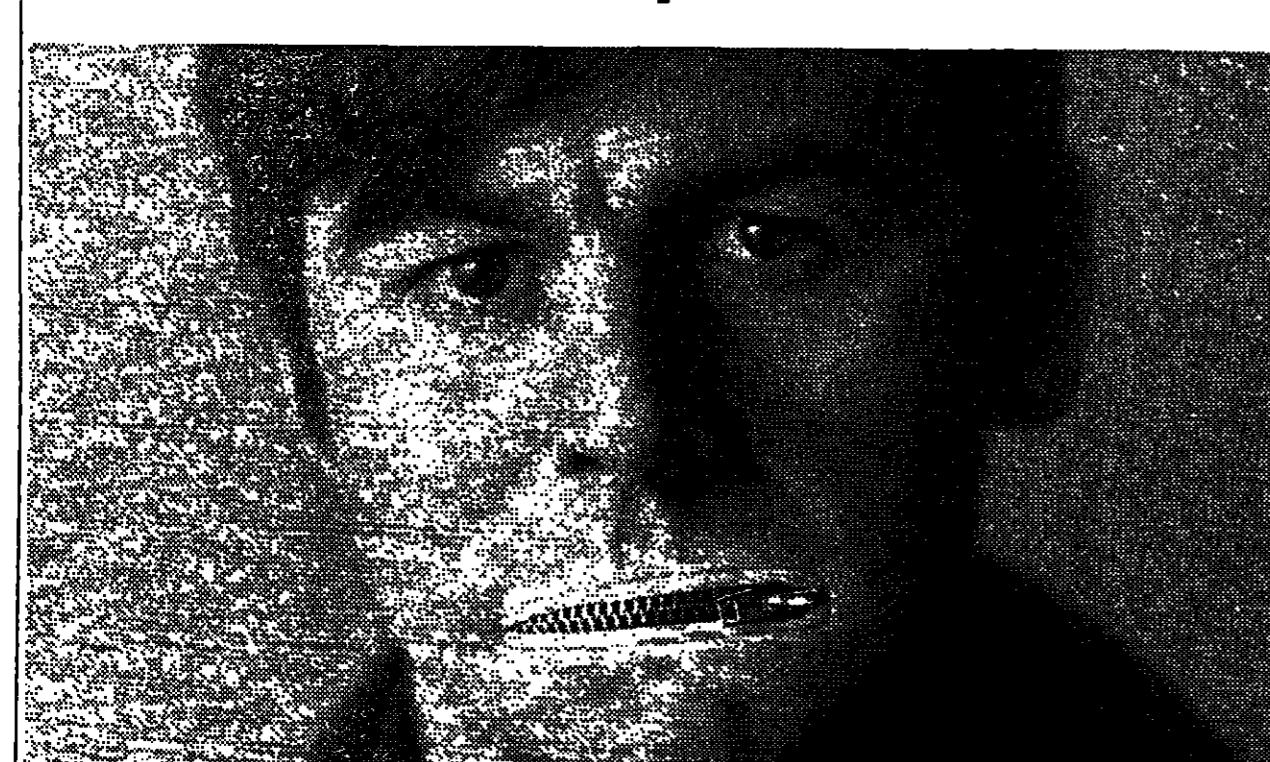
She says that in the period immediately after a dog attack a child will usually look back at what happened through nightmares and flashbacks, while the parents will worry about the future.

"In the time after the injury children need a lot of help. What I do depends on their age and their needs in terms of social skills. I use a video quite extensively. Children need to see how others are treated. A child who looks different feels different and may become vulnerable or anxious."

"Appearance is very important in our society, and children are as likely as adults to judge by appearances. There are times when it matters more: when children enter school; from eight to 10 years old, when they start moving away from their family and towards their peers, and in early adolescence."

Ultimately, it seems, it is not the severity of scarring which is of paramount importance, but the child's self-consciousness about it. Some children get upset about minor scarring; others can cope with major scarring — it depends on their personality and the reactions of other people.

If one in three people suffer from piles, how come nobody talks about it?



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FICTION

The finer points of disembowelling

Anne McElvoy surveys a febrile, Fifties Berlin complete with spies, love and unspeakable act

Amild scent of mothballs hangs inevitably over a novel which ends with the protagonist imagining a valedictory clamber on to the rickety platform at the Potsdamer Platz to gaze at the Berlin Wall "before it was all torn down". But, set as it is in the febrile Berlin of the 1950s, this one has the advantage of having been conceived as a period piece when it was written. Today's readers, however, have the telescopic sensation of an extra layer of time between themselves and it to contend with.

With the linguistic twirls of an inspired travel writer McEwan insists on letting us know that he has been to Berlin. Food is rendered doggedly in German, street names catalogued with painful exactitude and hyperactive Ger-

Maria, dogged by the vestiges of the war, is uncompromisingly dissected, but lacks the clarity of perception of previous McEwan duos which the magnifying glass rendered uncomfortably but realistically large. Here the lens misfits up to the two sway a touch drunkenly between credibility and authorial convenience.

Ultimately to blame is the uneasy confusion of genre: as a spy novel it is flaccid because the author is too interested in the sexual and social motivations of his characters to be able to build up the concentrated intellectual spin required for a powerful denouement. Even when the baddie is revealed – and there are not that many characters to choose from – it is hard to care.

Squatting darkly at the centre of the narrative is a dreadful deed, a disconcertingly itemized ex-

THE INNOCENT

By Ian McEwan

Cape, £12.95

position of the evil of which love is capable, although I found it difficult to silence the trivializing gremial who whispered that it was inevitable that McEwan should discover the finer points of disembowelling some time in his writing career. His previous strength in conveying the compulsion of motiveless action does not survive once a motive is at hand; however, an insufficient reason for an unspeakable act seems curiously less credible than none at all.

Flashes of saturnine humour come as a welcome relief. The frantic mongrel sniffing at a suitcase full of human remains watched fondly by its mistress – "one of those owners who does not like to cross their pets" – is a cameo of street life in a city where elderly ladies really do treat their dogs more politely than their fellow humans.

Inspired nuggets like this and a sense of time, if not place, rescue an uneven enterprise. It is not the best of McEwan's work, still less powerful enough to fix the place of the old Berlin in our new cultural consciousness, but he is the only writer I know who can make one combine an "ugh" and a giggle out loud while pausing to gather strength for his next onslaught of language and imagery.



GLYNNE BOYD HARTIE

Violence, veiled by ritual

Nicola Murphy

AMONGST WOMEN

By John McGahern

Faber, £11.99

At the centre of *Amongst Women* is Michael Moran, an ex-republican captain turned farmer, living with his second wife, Rose, three daughters and youngest son. Instead of glorious tales of destruction of the Black and Tans, McGahern finds drama in the particularities of daily life. Through focus on exactly how and when the family laid the table, put on the kettle and told the rosary, McGahern produces a novel of extreme tension and hypnotic power. Comparisons with Chekhov once more are apt.

McGahern builds up an atmosphere of intense claustrophobia, through the family's ritualistic actions. In the manner of Beckett he describes the underlying violence and desperation that the rituals seek to sanctify with a spare style, pared of all flowery verbiage and excessive description. He creates a repressive home dominated by Moran, an embittered, brooding man, and tyrannical father and husband, who now scorns the IRA and those for whose freedom he once fought.

Moran seeks perfection not in the state but in the family. It is only in a stable and united home life that Moran finds security and happiness. Any signs of individuality are crushed; university is forbidden fruit for his scholarship-level daughter and all self-expression is frowned upon. Moran uses "Catholicism" and "family" to demand obedience. At any challenge to his authority he orders a recitation of the rosary, a stint in the fields or a kiss. He does not know how to show love. He only understands possession.

In turn his wife and children both love and hate him. All the children work desperately to escape through jobs, marriage and even exile. They want to be far away as possible. Or so they think. All four are drawn back. Their escapes are as much of a ritual as the inevitable return: family is in their blood.

Only Luke the eldest can contemplate the final break and the ultimate betrayal – to become more English than the English. But with freedom he loses all the real strength that is also part and parcel of Moran family life. At their father's funeral with which the book closes, it is not Luke but the women who walk away as leaders, as Moran's heirs.

In a mere 184 pages, McGahern fuses past and present, repression and individuality, aspiration and conflict in a seamless narrative of extraordinary tension and effect. *Amongst Women* is much more than a good book, it is an overwhelming experience.

AUTHORS

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Past imperfect, present tense

Jasper Rees

LAST LOVES

By Alan Sillitoe

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THE GARDENER

By David Pownall

Gollancz, £13.95

THEN AGAIN

By Jenni Diski

Bloomsbury, £13.99

THE STRAWBERRY JAM DIVORCE

By Myrna Greenberg

Allison & Busby, £11.95

Meanings of their pettiest thoughts, words and deeds. David Pownall, on the other hand, has

somewhat too much confidence in the extraordinariness of his characters. For all its neatly carved symmetries and symbols, the impression one extracts from *The Gardener* is that his dramatis personae are merely inexplicable, and certainly less real than the lovingly detailed north English landscape they inhabit. Two ba-

bies born in a Yorkshire village parish are baptised by a free-thinking priest. They grow up apart, but when their fathers die the priest appoints himself surrogate parent. He encourages his two charges to meet, fall in love, and play out the role of God's beautiful elect which he assigns to them. The budding of symbiotic passion is done very well, but when the lovers go to different universities things go wrong both with their love and with the narrative. Pauline's mad mother commits suicide. Pauline herself marries a rich arms dealer and Enc flunks his degree to work as a gardener on the newly-weds' Surrey estate. Pownall keeps the reader posted on what is going through his characters' minds with an almost evangelical zeal to inform, but even he often finds himself strapped for an explanation of their preposterous antics.

Being a study of schizophrenia, it is uncertain how many main characters there actually are in Jenni Diski's ambitious fourth novel, *Then Again*. Is it two, or four, or three? There is Esther,

separated 40-year-old and mother of one, and her asthmatic alter ego, a troubled 14-year-old called Elizabeth, who visits her in her dreams. Then there is Esther's daughter Katy, also 14, and Katy's unnamed interior voice, which persuades her she has been visited by God. When Katy goes missing, presumed chemically unbalanced, Esther continues to paint crockery for a living and canoe with her psychoanalyst boyfriend, while a memory of a forgotten past before she was adopted by her parents, linked to her worries for Katy, begins to stampede uncontrollably through her subconscious. This all sounds tortuous and confusing, which is perhaps partly the effect intended, but out of the psychological duplicity of her characters Diski constructs an intriguing web of interlocked narratives.

The *Strawberry Jam Divorce*, a first novel by Myrna Greenberg, is also about mental self-torment but, filtered through a teenager's naive first-person voice, it is more disposed to lather anguish in humour. Kevin tells his own story, in which he discovers his mother in bed with a fat man, watches his father haranguer her and then escapes into the night to avoid witnessing the family self-combust. The narrative's charm resides largely in the laxative flow of Greenberg's punctuation-shy, digressive, confessional style.

The Constantine nobody knew

Peter Jones

EMPEROR

By Colin Thubron

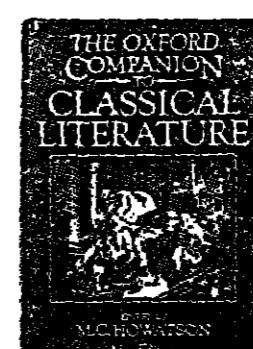
Heinemann, £12.95

the siege of Verona and a maelstrom of interacting diaries and letters, with Constantine at the eye of the storm. Two issues quickly emerge: what is the nature of Constantine's relationship with his beautiful but distant and frigid wife Fausta, and for how much longer can Constantine remain a faithful Sun-worshipper, when all about him he senses darkness and gloom? These issues come to a head when, after Verona is taken in a night battle, Constantine's closest friend dies with a spear through his liver, and a letter of Fausta to her cousin is accidentally intercepted and returned to Constantine. His struggle to see some hope in his friend's death and his sense of betrayal by his wife drive him to search elsewhere for "meaning": Synesius's pagan-

ism begins to seem thin and profitless, compared with the hope of the resurrection Hesiod offers instead. And so to the capture of Rome and the vision of the sign of the Cross.

Thubron himself raises the question of historicity in his foreword, and for what it is worth, it seems unlikely to me that any ancient would be quite so angst-ridden about his relationship with his wife. I was not wholly convinced by Thubron's portrayal of the thought-process of a 4th-century pagan and barbarian, and it does not ring true that Synesius and Hesiod should regard him as such a fool when the evidence of his diaries suggests quite the opposite. But so what? The rapid crossfire of documents is thrillingly paced, compelling, our involvement in the writers' concerns, and the intellectual and spiritual turmoil of the age emerges persuasively.

History it may not be, but it would be a dull dog that did not warm to the rich inventiveness of Thubron's reconstruction.



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Adult games played for real

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

THE BARSOOM PROJECT

By Larry Niven and Steven Barnes

Pan, £13.95

It's astounding what disbelieving it-or-not data you pick up in this launch-leader for Pan's new SF hardbacks. Vampires hate victims to eat garlic, because it sours the taste of blood; flitting outside marriage is called "extra-marital tactophilia"; the best way to slim is via The Fat Ripper diet-plan which involves being chased by Genghis Khan hordes. Not so much reviewing as an education in itself. And I am duly grateful. As, indeed, so should readers be – grateful, that is – because the influence of collaborator Steven Barnes has turned the great hardcore creator of Ringworld, Larry Niven, fantasy-sof soft the technical edges. Their Game Park – a wonderworld of pastimes for adults to compete in – is not new, but never so completely, almost

neurotic woman and a stolid security-chief, and a plan to settle humans on Mars (*Barsoom* is derived from Edgar Rice Burroughs's John Carter novels).

All this, plus a villain who lives in a glass tower, which makes his shattering end only too transparent, a stone's throw from predictability. Attentive reading is required, treading with care on the technological facts, so that you don't fall through the fantasy-crevices into bafflement.

But, persevere and your progress reaches positive enlightenment. And, who knows what useful tips about vampires – oh, and Eskimo myths – you'll gather on the way. Just the sort of stuff to stun-gum them with at the next dinner-party. And never get invited again.

PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance & Books

FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Barry Millington

LONDON

LA CENERENTOLA: The Irish soprano Alison Brougher is the new brough in this production (by Michael Hampe) of Rossini's Cinderella story. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: Lively revival by Rebecca Merills of original production by Jonathan Miller. English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight, Sat and Tues, 7pm-£3.33.

DON PASQUALE: Donizetti with trampolines in Peter Knapp's irreverent staging for Travelling Opera Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), Tonight, 7.45pm, £3-£15.50.

IL TROVATORE (Verdi): Static staging, partly redeemed by strong cast, including Vaness, Leiferkus, Sieblenko and Randova. ROH (as above), tomorrow, Wed., 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.

ARIADNE ON NAOS: Enjoyable evening with some fine Strauss conducting (Lionel Friend) and singing (Anne Evans and Rita Cullis). ENO (as above), tomorrow, Wed., 7.30pm, £2.50-£33.

OUTSIDE LONDON

MERRY WIDOW/LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Last chance to catch Opera 80's Lehár and Donizetti productions outside London. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 352000), tonight, Sat (Merry), tomorrow (Lucia), 7.30pm, £6-£14.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE (Gluck): Sally Burgess's portrayal of Orpheus was described by one critic as "unorthodox but moving". Opera North, Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 826265), tonight, 7.15pm, £6.50-£20.

THE MIKADO (Gilbert & Sullivan): John Wells's production for the D'Oyly Carte. John Price-Jones conducts. Eden Court, Bishop's Road, Inverness (0463 221718), today, 1.30pm, 8pm, £7-£15.

DON PASQUALE (Donizetti): Patrick Mason's Opera North production bounces back, but without the aid of trampolines. Roger Bryson and Judith Howarth lead the cast. Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 482626), tomorrow, 7.15pm, £6.50-£20.

GRAEME MILLER: A Girl Skipping: Innovative and dynamic work from this co-founder of Impact Theatre – a beautifully constructed multi-skilled group performance. The Green Room, 54-56 Whitworth Street, West Manchester (061 236 1577), tonight, 8pm, £4.30 (£2.80).

Almost lost in the post?

DANCE

John Percival

TURNING WORLD: International dance season with Wim Vandekeybus's *The Bearers of Bad News*, noted for its heavy rhythmic and highly energizing style (tonight, tomorrow); Ralph Lemon's company (Sat); Michele Anne de Mey makes her debut's here as choreographer with *Sinfonia Eroica* (Mon, Tues), and one of the leading members of the German modern dance style, Susanne Linke (Wed).

The Place Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), 8pm, £6.

MAIFEST: Glasgow's new dance season *Angekla Oei's* stunning visual dance theatre piece *Odan Stoobie* (tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, Michele Anne de Mey (tomorrow), Shobana Jeyasingh's award-winning *Orientations* (Sat), Wim Vandekeybus (Sun); and Susanne Linke (Mon).

Tonight-Sat Third Eye Centre, 346-354 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (014 332 0522/01-227 5511), £5 (£2.50).

Tomorrow-Mon Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street, Glasgow (041 227 5511), 7pm, £5 (£2.50).

ROMEO AND JULIET: Ashton's poetic production for English National Ballet. Mayflower, Southampton (0703 229771), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £5-£18.50. Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£16.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée* on tour (tonight, Mon-Wed), also *The Dream with Paramount and Flowers of the Forest* (tomorrow, Sat).

Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 421000), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £6-£17.50. Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury (0227 767248), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm, £7-£18.

Richard Morrison

Phoenix Art Centre, 11 Newark Street, Leicester (0533 554854), Tues, 8pm, £6, £4 (£3).

MAYFEST AT THE THIRD EYE CENTRE: A strong programme of events throughout Mayfest: Lumière & Son present Trevor Stirling in *Taboo* (tonight, 9.30pm) and experimental Glasgow company Cleverhouse with *Snatches* (tonight, Sat, 9.30pm) and Desiree Delaney and Boris Gertler's strong and experimental dance visual art collaboration (*Taboo*-Wed, 7.30pm).

ROYAL BALLET ET: Last performances of *Giselle* with Bryony Bland and Mark Silver (Sat), Mana Almeida and Laurent Hilario (Mon), *Gone with the Galantines, Other Dances and Pursuit* (Tues).

Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£18.

JACOB MARLEY/STEPHEN TOLTY-WOODROW: *The Second Sitting* Pretentious and sexist, over-hyped performance piece, with two or three moments of brilliance.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), Tonight until May 19, Mon-Sat 8pm, £6 (£5) plus £1 day membership.

MICHAEL MAYHEW AND BECKY EDMUNDS: Going Down On Jesus and Sex, Drink and Fast Cars: Double bill of work from this dynamic young Manchester duo, who whilst visual and physical theatre together with challenging themes.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending 5 May 1990

FICTION

- 1 Lies of Silence, Brian Moore Bloomsbury £12.99
- 2 The Buddha of Suburbia, Hanif Kureishi Faber £13.99
- 3 Timothé Regained, John Mortimer Viking £13.99
- 4 Golden Fox, Wilbur Smith Macmillan £14.99
- 5 A Sensible Life, Mary Wesley Bantam £12.95

NON-FICTION

- 1 Oxford Book of Humorous Prose, Frank Muir Oxford £17.95
- 2 Michelin 1990: France Michelin £10.50
- 3 Michelin 1990: Britain Michelin £8.75
- 4 Barbanas at the Gate, Burroughs & Heyer Cape £15.95
- 5 Coward's Chronicles, Marti Caine Century £11.95

PAPERBACKS

- 1 The Russian House, John Le Carré Hodder & Stoughton £4.50
- 2 A Year in Provence, Peter Mayle Faber £4.99
- 3 Devices & Desires, P D James Faber £6.99
- 4 Moon Palace, Paul Auster Arrow £3.50
- 5 The Bridesmaid, Ruth Rendell Mandarin £3.99
- 6 Silence of the Lambs, Thomas Harris Black Swan £3.99
- 7 Vacillations of Poppy Carew, Mary Wesley Black Swan £3.99
- 8 Second Fiddle, Mary Wesley Minerva £3.99
- 9 The Joy Luck Club, Max Tan Fontana £3.99
- 10 Hunt for Red October, Tom Clancy Fontana £3.99

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READINGS

Cris Cheek

MIROSLAV HOLUB: Leading Czech poet and scientist writes tough and unsentimental poems (new collection *Vzansky Lung Syndrome*) and revealing essays. Serious fun.

Eastern European Forum, ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), Wed until May 17, 7pm, £5.

IRINA RATUSHKINSKAYA: Redoubtable Russian poet who is a western vision of what *glasnost* means.

Old Ship Assembly Rooms, Ship Street, Brighton (073 2980), Sat, 8.15pm, £4.50 (£3.50 concs). Pushkin Arts Centre, St Peter's Square, Finsbury Park (01-630 6917), 7pm, £2.50, £1.50.

IVANA KLIMA: From Prague, editor of the Czech Writers' Union's journal during the Prague spring and author of plays, stories and novels, of which *Love and Garbage*, published in March, is the latest.

Purcell Room, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed, 8pm, £2.50 (£1.50).

FARRUKH DHONHY AND ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: Dhonhy's first novel has just been published, its energy and invention promises much. Guruh's third is *Dotte*, also just available. Catch them in discussion.

Watershed Media Centre, 1 Canons Road, Bristol (0272 72644), Tues, 7.30pm, £3 (£2 concs).

Compiled by Kari Knight

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Safety at Channel tunnel site criticized

By Mark Soaster

WORK on the two main tunnel boring machines of the Channel Tunnel remained suspended yesterday after the death of a sixth British worker.

There were calls for the £7.5 billion project to be stopped indefinitely pending an inquiry into safety at the site near Dover. Work is continuing, however, on the marine service tunnel and behind the boring machines in the main tunnels.

Health and safety executive inspectors continued their investigation into the death, on Monday night, of Mr William Cartman, aged 33. The inquest into his death was opened yesterday.

Mr Stuart Campbell, an executive inspector, said he was concerned about safety at the site, and that there were many safety issues which "needed to be carried forward with Trans-Manche Link. We will be making sure that TML will take appropriate action to make sure such an accident doesn't happen again". Mr Campbell said that legal action against TML "can never be ruled out."

A leading union official, meanwhile, called for action to stop the "carcass" at the Channel Tunnel construction site. Mr George Henderson, building workers' leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that radical measures were needed to prevent more deaths.

He said that union-sponsored MPs would raise the issue of "the scandal of deaths and injuries at the Channel Tunnel in Parliament". In a

Peaceful day of Soviet parades

Continued from page 1
troopers who have played the leading part in recent weeks in occupying Communist Party buildings in the city. The parade was attended by leaders of the rump Soviet Communist Party in Lithuania.

In Riga, the Latvian capital, a crowd of several thousand opponents of the republic's leadership met after the parade at the Soviet war memorial to hear speeches denouncing as illegal and invalid the Latvian Parliament's declaration of independence. Many taking part were soldiers and their families from among the spectators at the parade.

In Moscow, the Red Square



Georgia King, of St Paul's Church of England School, London, getting a closer look at Layang Layang, a London Zoo elephant, after being presented by the Queen with the first prize in an endangered animals art competition

parade lasted a bare 50 minutes and the procession of military hardware occupied less than a quarter of an hour. The succession of war-time and modern weaponry included T80 tanks and the latest missile launchers, but at least one new armoured vehicle that military observers had expected to see was missing. Tass insisted that "the military parade was not a demonstration of the Soviet union's military might".

The first armoured unit to enter the square was the Taman Guards Motorized Rifle Division — the unit reported last week to have mobilized on February 25 in a warning to President Gorbac-

ovich. The unit, one of two regarded as the "Practorian guard" of the Moscow military garrison, was taking its appointed place in a parade held under the auspices of the Moscow regional command.

This year, following the change of governments in Eastern Europe, no East European veterans took part.

Marshal Yavoz's short address to the massed ranks of army, navy, border guards and interior troops, augmented by ranks of bemuddled veterans and — for the first time — members of undercover units, partisans and the home guard, emphasized the support of the military for *perestroika* and the "new political thinking"

abroad.

While assessing changes in the international climate as "positive", he warned they were not yet reversible and that a risk of war remained.

The tone of his words was far removed from that of the former Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, five years ago, who described the Nazis as "the crack force of imperialism" and said the war "deepened the capitalist crisis". This year, "imperialist" and "capitalism" were not mentioned.

The parade was watched from the top of Lenin's Mausoleum by a small group of the national leadership, including President Gorbachov.

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited London Zoo in Regent's Park yesterday to inaugurate two new conservation projects.

The Queen unveiled the new elephant satellite tracking project, on show in the elephant house. Transmitters placed on three elephants in Kenya will send radio signals via an orbiting satellite to the zoo.

Visitors will be able to follow the movement of an elephant herd on a monitor. The project will help curators and scientists work out a

management plan for the dwindling numbers of threatened African elephants.

The Queen also opened the zoo's new Lifewatch centre. Lifewatch, the Zoological Society's public membership scheme, will help provide funding for the 30 worldwide animal welfare and conservation projects operated by the zoo.

After switching on the satellite link the Queen joined other dignitaries in watching four elephants enjoying a bath in much nearer to home, in the enclosure outside.

Queen inaugurates elephant project

By Ruth Gledhill

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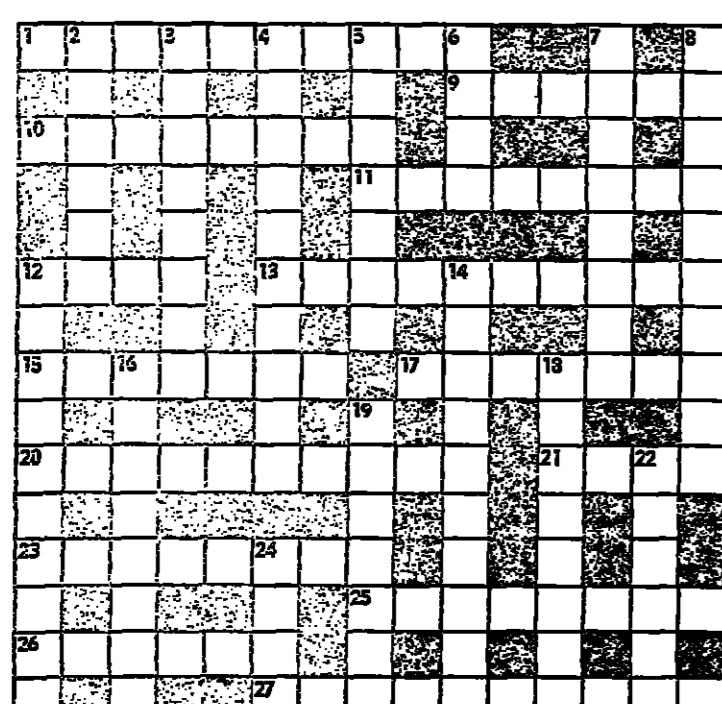
New Iran-US agreement

Nicosia
IRAN said yesterday it had reached agreement with the US on a number of financial disputes dating from the Islamic revolution in 1979. Tehran Radio quoted a statement by Iran's mission at the claims tribunal in The Hague as saying under two separate agreements, Iran would pay the US a total of \$105 million (£65 million) to settle more than 3,100 claims. It quoted Mr Ali Nobari, Iran's representative at the tribunal, as saying the deal had nothing to do with US hostages held in Lebanon.

The agreements were made after talks in The Hague over the past few days. (Reuters)

Swap ruled out, page 12

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,290

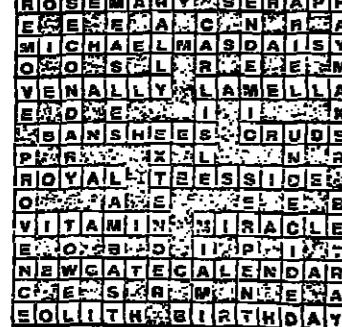


ACROSS
1 His principle — though barely stated — rare in cars, oddly (10).
9 Distant satellite noted by Weber (6).
10 Soldiers busy, responding to orders (8).
11 Bear twins and make light of it? (4-4).
12 Wet sheet of Lombardy yachtsmen? (4).
13 Sign on bars — "Beer left" may be treated with chlorine? (6).
15 It is uncouth and evil to take money, people say (3-4).
17 The late shift? (7).
20 Concerned with bits and pieces, perhaps (10).
21 Mass of weeds obstructing white flower (4).

23 Soft and spongy furnishing (8).
25 Like the R in Gaul? Tut! It is lucky for us (8).
26 Matador's cry, having consumed Sis (6).
27 Liquor makes chairman so drunk! (10).

DOWN
2 Resound like a screech-owl, heartily (2-4).
3 Great sacrifice for Tom, say, to ring doctor (8).
4 This jazz needs more than 7 (10).
5 Bass-note heard in parts of the ocean (4-3).
6 Tricky fight for one! (4).
7 Tract about reading, for example, is not much of a course (8).
8 Working away and not striking? (2-3,5).
12 Pitch money out — a stack! (7-3).
14 On hill, Soot changes into middle gear (10).
16 Tailless animal safe here in Devil's? (8).
18 Classified, still? You can say that again (4-4).
19 Rock and roll? (7).
23 Polish Mum off — for the estate? (6).
24 I am holding editor up, all the same (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,289



Answers on page 22
WORD-WATCHING
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard
CATOPTRIC
a. Concerning cat's eyes
b. Looking down on
c. Mirroring

KAKOPYGE
a. A nightmare incubus
b. A whipping-boy
c. Someone with ugly buttocks

LAGNIPAPPE
a. A bonzai
b. A pasta shell
c. A woolens jacket

CLERUCH
a. A plain ruff
b. An allotment-holder
c. A gleaner's satchel

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734

M25 London orbital only

735

National motorways

737

West Country

738

Midlands

740

East Anglia

741

North-west England

742

North-east England

743

Scotland

744

Northern Ireland

745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword page 22

WEATHER

Wales, especially in the afternoon when local thunderstorms may develop. The sun will, nevertheless, make an appearance in most parts. Coastal areas of eastern Scotland may have cold, grey weather rolling in off the sea, but the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry and sunny. Outlook: showers in most places, but also some fine, dry interludes.

ABROAD

Scorcher in Spain, bright sun in Italy, rain in France, drizzle in Germany, snow in Scandinavia, blizzard in Russia.

AROUND BRITAIN

Scorcher in Spain, bright sun in Italy, rain in France, drizzle in Germany, snow in Scandinavia, blizzard in Russia.

SUN

Rain

Max

Cloudy

55

18

64

Sunny

55

18

64

TEMPUS

Trafalgar set to weather the storm

THE weakest feature of Trafalgar House is undoubtedly the price of its shares. They fell again on the interim results even though these showed how resilient the group has become to a downturn in any of its businesses, even the property development core.

A 50 per cent rise in construction and engineering profits to £34.4 million and a 60 per cent rise to £30.2 million from shipping and hotels kept group pre-tax profit moving ahead, despite a 19 per cent downturn to £67 million in the development and housing business and a 24 million rise in interest charges.

There could still be a nasty surprise in the second half, since Trafalgar has a variety of small commercial developments to sell in a sticky market. Sir Nigel Brookes, the chairman, has also prepared the way for a possible writedown of housing land or development projects at the year-end in September.

But any nasty surprise should not be too big. The group does not have any big commercial projects near completion that could turn into costly white elephants.

Developments for sale, totalling £800 million, including the landbank, contain a relatively modest £80 million of rolled-up interest. And there is only £100 million off-balance sheet borrowing to add to the £500 million of borrowings.

The further rundown on the housing side has also been carefully controlled. Unit sales were down from 1,900 a year ago to 1,400 in the first half, but profit margins improved slightly.

Even on the development side, therefore, Trafalgar is in a much stronger position to weather the property market storms than more spectacular newcomers. Indeed, the prob-

Brent Walker

THE City did a distinct double-take on being presented with Brent Walker's figures. Full-year profits about £10 million above best expectations prompted an initial rise of 11p to 31.5p, but as the analysts started to shake the figures and a few of the "funnies" fell out, the price edged back to end 6p lower at 29.5p.

Pre-tax profits of £82.2 million bore little comparison to the £41.7 million reported for 1988 because of the radical restructuring last year, including the purchase of the William Hill bookmaking chain, in for the last two weeks of 1989.

They also included £37.6 million of property profits taken above the line, while £16 million in capitalized interest cut payments on Brent Walker's £787 million



Benefits in adversity: George Walker, chairman of Brent Walker, is ready to buy year-end debts to "only" 40 million.

Mr George Walker, the chairman, is claiming that the gloom in the leisure sector is merely a chance to buy, and that he would be happy with 100 per cent gearing.

So the £250 million to £300 million asset sales planned for the rest of the year, excluding any disposal of the half-share in the Trocadero site, will probably be matched by fur-

ther purchases in the core areas of pubs — still 850 short of the Monopolies Commission's imposed ceiling — and betting shops.

Forecasting for the current year, always a leap in the dark, requires an extra degree of faith in Mr Walker's admittedly formidable dealmaking abilities. There are probably about £46 million of on-going trading profits from the core businesses, but property and

other trading should push the pre-tax figure over the psychological £100 million barrier.

The prospective p/e ratio is a meaningless 3 times, while the yield looks to be about 8 per cent. Still highly speculative.

J Smurfit

JEFFERSON Smurfit may bemoan its exclusion from the FT-SE 100 index despite a

market capitalization of £1.6 billion (£1.55 billion), but it can also boast the distinction of being the only paper and packaging company on the world stage to realize earnings growth.

With £184 million cash in the bank after a highly complex restructuring last August in which it sold its North American interests to a joint venture company, split 50-50 between itself and a leveraged fund run by Morgan Stanley, to realize more than £1 billion, Smurfit is ready to take advantage of strategic opportunities likely to come up in the sector after the shakeout.

Smurfit's shares rose 13p to 64.5p as the company, the world's largest recycler of waste paper, reported a 3.9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £245.5 million on turnover up 21.1 per cent to £1.83 million for the year to end-January. Fully-diluted earnings per share moved ahead 8.5 per cent to 51p, with a final dividend of 3.237p, making 4.7p (3.975p) for the year.

Net assets per share have more than doubled from 114.6p to 133.1p, and Smurfit boasts a 54 per cent cash-equity ratio.

Despite a tough economic climate in Britain and continued weakness in commodity prices in the US, analysts are expecting earnings growth of at least 15 per cent this year, although pre-tax profits are likely to drop as a result of the restructuring of its North American paper interests.

Comparison on the pre-tax line is difficult, as the changes mean that Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, its US subsidiary, will now be treated as a related company.

Smurfit is turning its buying attention to Europe. The shares, on a historic multiple of 12 times against a sector average of 9, look a strong long-term bet.

BUNZL chief will peg his salary to results

MR JAMES White, chairman and chief executive of Bunzl, has defended himself against shareholder criticism of his 5.2 per cent salary increase to £420,415 after a year when group profits fell. He told the annual meeting he would not have another salary increase until the group's performance improved.

Mr Alan Diamond, a private shareholder, had criticized the board for what he thought was a poor group performance. But Mr White said there had been a "sound start" to the current financial year, and that results from continuing businesses were ahead of the same period of 1989.

Reshuffle at Kleinwort

KLEINWORT Benson has reshuffled its board. Mr Andrew Caldecott, the Earl of Limerick and Mr Michael Hawkes, a former chairman, are retiring as directors. They will be replaced by Mr Ian Peacock and Mr David Wake-Walker, joint heads of banking, and Mr Brian Manning, joint head of the treasury division.

Jobs cut at Prudential

PRUDENTIAL Portfolio Managers, the investment side of the Prudential Corporation, is to reduce its staff from 380 to 260 jobs, reflecting the downturn in the property market. Mr Hugh Jenkins, the chief executive of PPM and the chairman of its property division, said the decision did not mean that the Pru was shifting away from the property market. "We have one of the largest and most prestigious property portfolios in Britain, currently valued in excess of £5 billion, and remain an active property investment manager."

He said that after a decade of unprecedented investment and development activity, the property market was now expected to go through a period of consolidation as the development phase reached maturity.

Windsor buys Bliss Weinel

WINDSOR, the Lloyd's broker, is buying the business and goodwill of Bliss Weinel and its Canadian parent, its Bliss Weinel Investment Management subsidiary, for an initial £546,000 and 200,000 new Windsor ordinary shares. A further £2.66 million in cash and 8.55 million new Windsor shares are performance-related.

Ravenhead in buyout

THE management of the Ravenhead glass tableware group and Libbey St Clair, its Canadian parent, have announced a Can\$134 million (£68.9 million) management buyout of the two groups. Mr Carlo Simoni and Mr John Rand, two private investors, have also invested in the deal. Libbey bought Ravenhead in 1987.

Bibby rises 5.7% after reshuffle

By Matthew Bond

PRE-TAX profits at J Bibby, the industrial and agricultural group, edged 5.7 per cent ahead to £16.8 million in the six months to March.

Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, the chairman, said that, despite a number of adverse factors, he expected to show an increase at the full year. In its last full year, Bibby made a pre-tax profit of £28.6 million, a reduction on the £30.2 million of 1988.

That fall in profits was caused by high wood pulp prices hitting the profitability of its paper and converted products division.

Yesterday, Mr Mansell-Jones said the division was no longer making losses, as it had in the second half of last year, and was showing an improvement over last year's profitable first half.

The turnaround was due to rationalization at the Devon Valley Mill and "various organizational changes." Pulp

RTZ chief condemns high rates

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

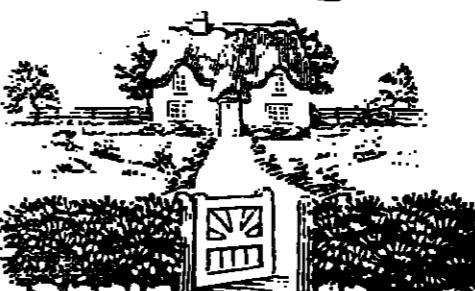
SIR Alastair Frame, RTZ's chairman, told the annual meeting that if world interest rates rise much further, the balance could be decisively tipped towards recession this year and in 1991.

"At present the world economy as a whole appears likely to muddle along with relatively unspectacular growth rates," he said.

Earnings in the first quarter of 1990 were broadly in line with the same period last year, though the outlook for the rest of the year will be influenced by traded metal prices and the extent to which world economic activity is sustained.

RTZ has been given AA credit ratings by Standard and Poor's Corporation and Moody's Investors Services. A new \$2 billion private placing of US commercial paper will provide \$1.5 billion to refinance part of the \$3.1 billion cost of buying BP Minerals.

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Gearing set to reach 100% by end of year, says SB

By Stephen Leather

SMITHKLINE Beecham's bid to lower its debt mountain, the result of the merger of America's SmithKline Beecham and Britain's Beecham last July, is on target.

The international health-care group started the year with debts of £1.75 billion, but hopes to cut it to about £1 billion by the end of this year.

Reporting first quarter results, Mr Henry Wendt, the chairman, said he was confident he would reach his target of 100 per cent gearing by the year-end. By the end of the first quarter, debt had been cut to £1.47 billion. Since then, the group has sold off 32 US drug brands and cosmetic products for £32 million, its Yardley/Lemher cosmetics business for £10 million, and raised \$800 million from an

issue of Auction-Rate preference shares.

The company is hoping to bring in another £300 million from the sale of other businesses.

Pre-tax profits fell from £235 million to £219 million in the first quarter, reflecting a £51 million increase in interest charges arising from the merger.

On a pro-forma basis, pre-tax profits rose 21 per cent, although about one third of the increases in sales and trading profit were a direct result of exchange rate movements. There is also an after-tax extraordinary profit of £82 million from the sale of the Ambrosia, Bovril and Marmite brands to the CPC food group of the US. Overall sales of Tagamet, the group's

anti-ulcer drug, fell 3 per cent. The company blames trade destocking in Japan and a 3 per cent fall in the US, where audit figures suggest that Tagamet prescriptions over the past year are down 12 per cent in the face of competition from Glaxo's Zantac.

There were large gains in sales of Dyazide, the blood pressure drug (up 67 per cent in the US), Enerix-B, the hepatitis-B vaccine (up 100 per cent), Augmentin, an antibiotic (up 54 per cent), and Timenid (42 per cent).

Mr Robert Bauman, the chief executive, whose salary last year soared 46 per cent to £1.26 million, was upbeat about the figures.

He said: "This excellent operating performance was driven by continued strong sales, particularly in pharmaceuticals and animal health, where results have been boosted further by the co-marketing efforts of our combined sales forces.

"We are beginning to see cost savings and margin improvements and these cost savings will accelerate as the year progresses."

Analysts at UBS Phillips & Drew are tipping the shares as a "buy" and are predicting full-year pre-tax profits in the region of £870 million, against £724 million in 1989. The shares closed 6p down at 472p.

A first-quarter dividend of 3.4p a share will be paid on July 16. Earnings per share were 10.8p (12.3p), with P&D predicting 43p for the full year.

Bear Brand sold by Courtwell

By Philip Pangalos

COURTWELL Group, which recently had its shares suspended at 4p after the appointment of an administrative receiver at its Leisure Investments subsidiary, has sold its Bear Brand hosiery business, which was its only other asset, to the Glamor Group.

Courtwell is now a shell, with some cash as well as some receivables.

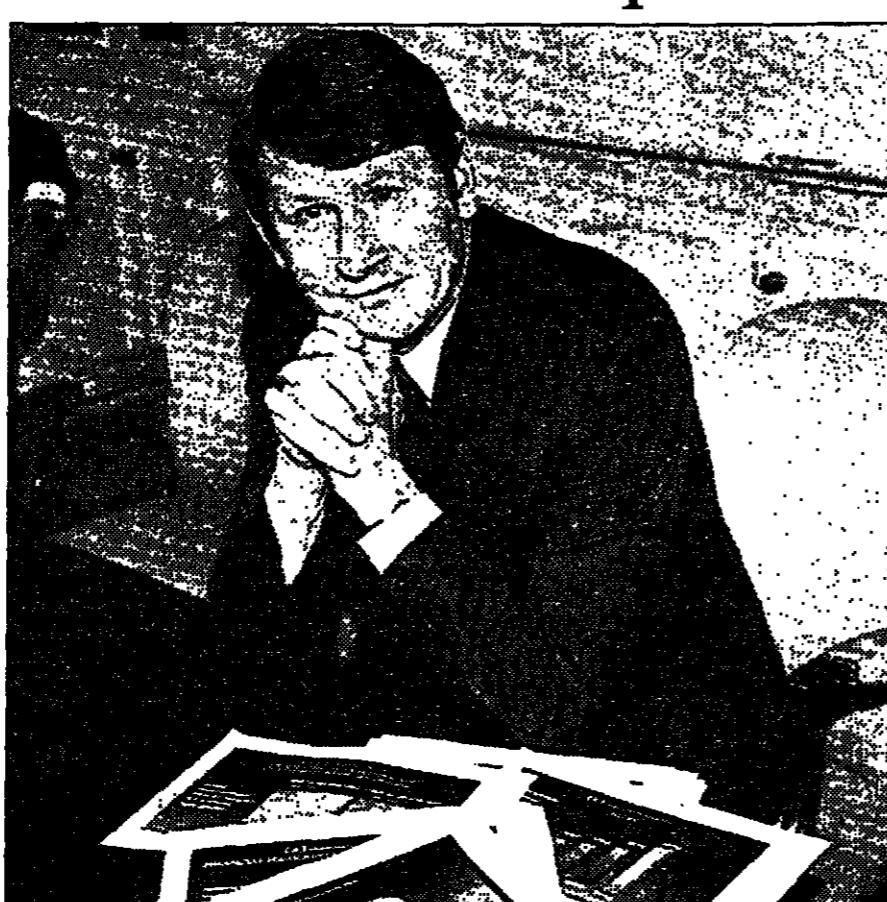
Dr Edward Vandyk, who became Courtwell's chairman after the departure of Mr Nick Oppenheim, a financier, said: "We will need to ensure we have a clean shell and clarify the position regarding tax losses, which could be in the order of £50 million to £60 million."

Glamor, the leather goods and hosiery supplier which is changing its name to Hartstone Group, acquired Bear Brand for £726,000 in 13 per cent convertible redeemable unsecured loan stock.

The stock can be converted into 409,014 Hartstone ordinary shares, 1.6 per cent of Hartstone, by July 1 next year. The deal will make Glamor number two in the British hosiery market.

After adjusting for the release of about £1.5 million owed to Courtwell, Bear Brand's pre-tax loss for 1989 was £540,000.

Smurfit to seek acquisitions



JEFFERSON Smurfit, the Republic of Ireland's largest company and one of the largest paper, packaging and recycling groups in the world, is ready to hit the acquisition trail in Europe with £848 million (£827 million) cash in

its pocket book (Melinda Wittstock writes). The company said it was looking to pursue a strategy of "logical opportunism."

"The pendulum is heading back to the buyer again, and we've got the cash," said Mr

Dermot Smurfit, the joint deputy chairman (above).

Pre-tax profits rose 3.9 per cent to £246 million and earnings per share climbed 8.5 per cent to 15.5p. The shares jumped 13p to 64.3p.

Tempus, page 26

The Guinness trial

Saunders 'confirmed £5m success fee'

By A Correspondent

ERNEST Saunders, the former Guinness chief executive, clearly spelt out the benefits to the Heron Group for supporting the company in its bid for Distillers, a court was told.

Gerald Ronson, Heron's chairman and chief executive, said he was paid a £5 million success fee and £800,000 to cover losses after investing £25 million to help protect the Guinness share price.

In transcripts of his 1987 interviews with Department of Trade inspectors examining

the bid, read to the jury at Southwark Crown Court, he said he was first approached in January 1986 by Anthony Parnes, a broker, who told him it would be helpful if Heron bought Guinness stock to protect its value against selling of stock on the market.

Mr Ronson asked about losses and Mr Parnes confirmed they would be covered by Guinness. He said he had read of the bid in the press and that Distillers were covering the costs of Guinness so he did not think there was anything wrong in being indemnified.

Later Mr Saunders confirmed any losses would be made good by the company. Heron invested £10 million, but during the bid raised its stake to £25 million. Mr Ronson told the DTT he was asked by Mr Parnes to increase the stake.

He said he told Mr Parnes: "Before we go that far, what happens if you are successful in taking over the company? It's very good, we are putting up this money and we are covered, but everyone else is making big fees." He told the inspectors: "I think I said to him 'what do you think would

be a fair fee?' And I think he came back to me and said 20 per cent of the money we were putting up." Mr Ronson told the broker he wanted it confirmed by Mr Saunders.

Mr Ronson said Mr Saunders confirmed Heron would receive cover on losses and a success fee based on 20 per cent of the investment.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, Mr Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, deny 24 charges of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Laing takes the biscuit

A 20-PAGE leaflet written by United Biscuits chairman Sir Hector Laing, ever his own man, has been causing something of a stir at the firm's Osterley, Middlesex, headquarters. The leaflet is a personal reflection on his 45 years with the company, since he will be retiring — and becoming life president — at UB's annual meeting today.

But given Sir Hector's well known and vocal dislike of much in the Square Mile, some of his colleagues are apparently reluctant to let the leaflet go on general release, lest City professionals take offence. For it he writes: "The stock market is coming to be less a means of allocating capital to productive use than an end unto itself — a computer game for those who compete in the finance league. But it is an eroding game, which undermines the true value of the counters with which it is being played — the national industrial and commercial base." Those same City professionals can, however, hardly object to the 17.5 per cent average annual growth in UB's share price since Sir Hector became managing director in 1964. In short, that means that £1,000 invested then, with gross dividends reinvested, would be worth £54,420 today.

Plus ça change

PRESS relations have come a long way in the 21 years since the Wincott Foundation was established to make awards for excellence in the business

and financial press. At yesterday's "coming of age" awards ceremony, the Governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh Pemberton recalled that the first press advised to the Old Lady was not even on the payroll, but paid covertly by one of the directors, who was quietly reimbursed. Even when the first press officer was put on staff, his brief was to "keep the Bank of England out of the press, and the press out of the Bank of England."

Index fingered
OFFENDING the Scottish investment community can be a grave mistake indeed, as many a fallen business hero will vouch. And there has been veritable steam coming out of Scottish ears this week after a quote in the *Financial Times* attributed to Paul Whitney, managing director of British Coal pension funds, appertaining to the continuing bid for Globe — bad done the rounds in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square. Whitney's claim that "the potential virtues of

index trusts had ironically been praised in a recent investment trust review from County NatWest WoodMac" — "ironic" since County is defending Globe — has outraged one of the authors of County's annual investment trust review, Robin Angus. Accusing Whitney of "betraying a considerable selectivity of quotation," Angus says that his personal view, as published in County's Investment Trust Review of 1988 (published in February 1989) remains that, "As for indexation, it is the ultimate cop-out. Indexing one's portfolio for fear of underperforming is like castigating oneself for fear of getting AIDS."

• TALK about appropriate names... staff in the Bath Street, Glasgow, office of BP Exploration, has received a memo from office manager Allan Abbott Anderson about the disappearance of a number of toilet rolls from the third floor lavatory. Given that none of the cardboard inner tubes are ever found, he can only assume that they have been stolen. And to investigate this alarming state of affairs he has appointed a Mr Lieu.

Whole in two
CREDIT Lyonnais Securities, the international division of the firm which also encompasses Laing & Cruickshank, has poached the two men who were running Bankers Trust's South-east Asia department — Jonathan Compton, aged 37, and Australian Gary Williams, aged 41. Compton, who started his new job as MD of CL's Far Eastern desk this



Carol Leonard

Island's finance system 'flawed'

THE framework under which the Isle of Man promoted itself as an off-shore finance centre was "seriously flawed," according to a previously secret report released by the Manx government.

The report, compiled by two officials of the Bank of England, was commissioned in the wake of the £42 million collapse of the island's Savings and Investment Bank in 1982.

"The considerable defects of policy have been exacerbated by sloppy day-to-day administration. It is not conducive to a good regulatory image to set rules, then not object when they are clearly being broken," it says.

The report was compiled in 1982 by Mr Richard Farrant and Miss Wendy Hyde — seconded from the Bank of England to investigate banking supervision on the island.

Their conclusion in the report to the Island's Lieutenant Governor was that "since the group acquired Rover, more than half a billion pounds has been committed to new manufacturing capacity, and things are generally looking up. But there was never much doubt that Rover was a fine buy for BAe: in an evening meeting with investment analysts on the day the deal was finally done, BAe made no secret that it had secured a mouth-watering deal. The shares responded accordingly. The investment programme which is turning Rover round will be more than covered by potential property gains."

In the context of the amount of investment required, of the likely turnaround in profits given the culture that was already in the process of change, the amount of the sweeteners was insignificant and hardly worth the political fallout. The Professor may have pushed too hard, but he had his shareholders to consider. His irresistible force needed

COMMENT

The Professor tackles the tanks on his lawn

The lawns of British Aerospace are looking more and more like Red Square: tanks as far as the eye can see.

Professor Roland Smith, the man who took on Tiny and came out smiling, is meeting the threat with a variety of diversionary tactics. On the day the trade and industry select committee verdict on the Rover "sweeteners" affair — the sale was described as "a good job, badly done" — surfaced by way of a leaked report, British Aerospace made

that it had signed an agreement to study the possibility of developing a second-generation supersonic airliner.

The move, which coincided with the BAe annual meeting, was a nice try, but the word on everybody's lips is still "sweeteners." The Professor points out that since the group acquired Rover, more than half a billion pounds has been committed to new manufacturing capacity, and things are generally looking up.

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The Professor may have pushed too hard, but he had his shareholders to consider. His irresistible force needed

to be met with an immovable object rather than industry's flexible friend, Lord Young, the then Trade Secretary.

On another front, the Professor is meeting a seemingly immovable object, Aerospatiale, controlled by the French Government. BAe and Daimler-Benz, its West German partner in Airbus Industrie, are keen to turn the consortium into a company, a move which does not appeal to the French, apparently on the grounds that companies not only have to be capitalized but also have to publish their accounts.

While the business world in general, and Boeing in particular, would love to see how Airbus is doing, there is more at stake than the satisfaction of outsiders' curiosity. Airbus is now a massive undertaking, and it has arrived at the point where it needs to be managed according to what is best for Airbus, rather than what its partners can agree upon.

Midland balancing act

Mr Gene Lockhart's astronomical progress up Midland's greasy pole speaks volumes for the state of the bank. Not only is he not British, but he is not a banker, having cut his teeth on insurance broking and management consultancy before catching the eye of Sir Kit McMahon. Now Mr Lockhart finds himself in charge of the majority of group operations after barely two years in the place.

The bank argues that his cost-cutting campaign has been reasonably successful, but has been patently unable to pump the extra income through the system to make it worthwhile. He must balance the equation quickly. If he does not, someone from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank might.

Pipe-line to shoot Frankfurt

A little cheer went up in the City yesterday, not because the Footsie lost nearly 20 points but because Nomura Securities has picked London for its European headquarters. In the grand scheme of things, the decision to locate research, planning, accounting, legal and personnel functions in London rather than Paris may appear small beer, but in the rarified world of Japanese corporate hierarchy, this is a big decision.

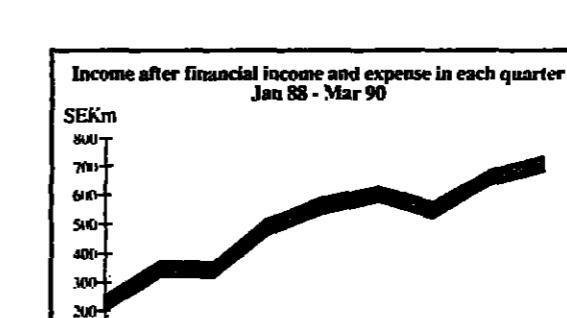
London was chosen for a variety of reasons, not least being that Nomura was already bigger in the City than elsewhere in Europe. It is nevertheless of some comfort that when London is under direct threat from Frankfurt and Paris, it has received the vote of the world's most powerful securities house.

That said, the heat is still being turned up, particularly by the West Germans. Dr Rüdiger von Rosen, executive vice-chairman of the Federation of German

This should not necessarily be seen as a threat, but as a natural development of the global market. Ibis, like Seag International, like Nasdaq, has the undoubted potential to transact pan-European business, and the choices have to be made as to whether to continue to develop competing systems, or to push the infant Price Information Project Europe (Pipe), funded by the stock exchanges of EC members, to maturity. If London really wishes to stay in front, it should take a lead in the latter, rather than risk being left on the fringes of a Euro-wide system.

David Brewerton

SKF First Quarter 1990



January - March 1990

	Increase	Swedish Kronor	Sterling equivalent
Income after financial income and expense	22%	721m	70m
Earnings per share	7%	3.70	36p
Sales	13%	7,112m	695m

Return on employed increased to 20.7%*

In line with the Company's declared long term strategy of continued expansion through acquisition, SKF has already made two major investments in 1990. Cofier, the Italian tool company

and Chicago Rawhide, a major US seal manufacturer, has given SKF a stronger position in each of their specialist markets.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 1989 (unaudited)

	1989 £M	1988 £M	%CHANGE
Turnover	526.0	128.9	+308%
Profit before tax	82.2	41.7	+97%
Earnings per ordinary share <small>(fully diluted)</small>	88.7p	41.05p	+116%
Dividend per ordinary share	15p	11p	+36.4%
Shareholders funds	856.0	603.6	+41.8%

Once again it is my pleasure to be able to report to you on a year of record results and one which also saw a substantial expansion of the Group's activities. The most significant feature of 1989 was the increase we made in the bookmaking business by the investment in William Hill to add to Brent Walker Bookmakers to become one of our four core businesses of Pubs and Brewing, Hotels and Leisure, Leisure Developments and Betting Services. Each of these businesses is individually managed by its own board and is independently accountable to the Group for its performance and development.

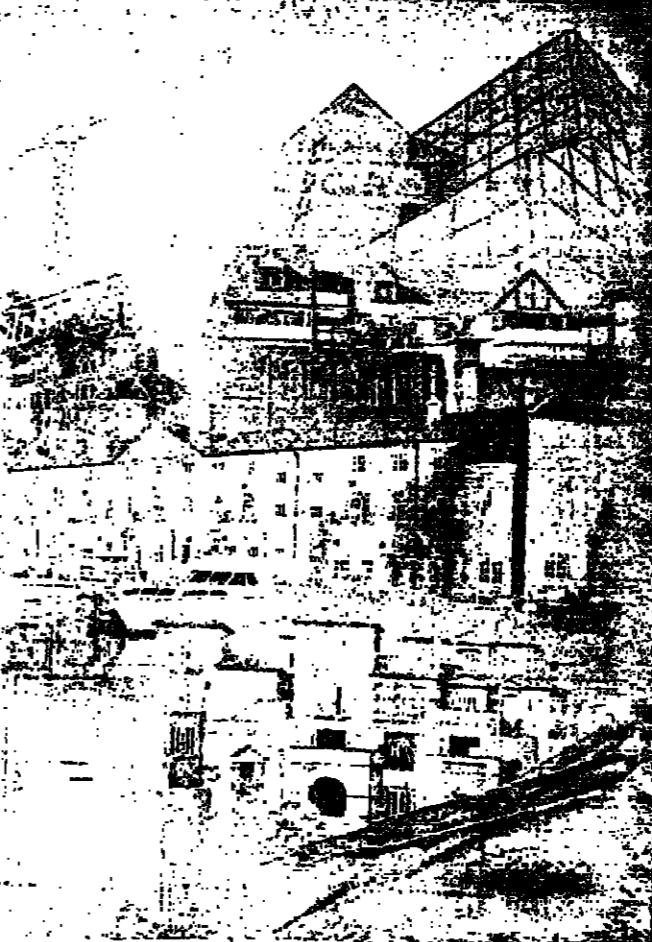
We now have a well-balanced group of activities and have enjoyed another record year during a period of major expansion. We are, however, never complacent and strive continually to improve both the asset base and profitability of our company. We seek to do this by the rationalisation of our existing activities, carefully planned programmes of acquisitions and disposals and by seizing opportunities to develop our core businesses.

Whilst continuing to operate profitably within a very narrow range of margins, operating costs have suffered from the downturn in the economic climate and increased base of activities has not proved as lucrative as these problems. A substantial proportion of the business is in Pubs, Brewing and Betting Services and these activities normally show a strong resistance to reductions in consumer spending. I am pleased to report that the company has started well and is looking forward with confidence to the future.

John C. Walker
Chairman & Chief Executive

All details of financial results are included in the Annual Report which will be available from The Company Secretary, The Brent Walker Group PLC, Brent Walker House, Miller Street, London W1C 2BS.

LEISURE DEVELOPMENT



THE BRENT WALKER GROUP PLC
WORKING FOR PLEASURE

TV sets Euro record by selling 2.94m vehicles

American steps in Midland signs off

Inflation to hit

Labour force growth 0898-400-666

Profits at Telfos edge up to £15.2m

By Wolfgang Münchau

TELROS Holdings, the engineering group, suffered a fall in earnings per share from 22.5p to 15.2p last year. Pre-tax profits were up marginally, from £5.16 million to £5.25 million.

The company also reported an extraordinary charge of £3.9 million, which is mainly a result of the £4.7 million costs involved in the closure of Security, a subsidiary specializing in security door entry systems and furniture retailing.

Telfos sought buyers for the company, but when this failed the loss-making security business was sold to its management for a nominal sum.

Telfos shares fell by 13p to close at 17.3p. The final dividend is 6.4p, making a total of 10p (8p).

The company said it will now concentrate on its core businesses in the railings and mining equipment sectors.

Last August, it became the first Western firm to take control of a Hungarian company, when it acquired a 51 per cent stake in Ganz-Hunslet, the national manufacturer of railway rolling stock. There was no contribution from this business in 1989, although Telfos believes there will be substantial profits in future years.

VW sets Europe record by selling 2.94m vehicles

By Wolfgang Münchau
European Business Correspondent

VOLKSWAGEN has consolidated its position as Europe's largest car maker with a rise in car sales to 2.94 million last year, the highest ever recorded by a European producer.

During the past year, the company, which has been struggling to improve its margins, succeeded in increasing pre-tax profits by 33 per cent to just over DM1 billion (£372 million) for the first time in its history.

The rise in profitability came as a result of improved sales and a cost-cutting programme, which began two years ago and included the shedding of 1,500 jobs last year.

Turnover was up from DM59.2 billion to DM65.4 billion. Despite an improvement in operating margins from 3.6 per cent to 4.6 per cent, Volkswagen still lags behind some of its main European rivals, in particular Fiat, in terms of profitability.

The dividend on ordinary

Bid success would place bank's main assets in US

AIB rises 52% to £229m

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

ALLIED Irish Banks raised pre-tax profits by 52 per cent to £22.7 million (£229 million) in the year to end-March, in line with its forecast, despite an £841 million Latin American debt write-off and an £85.6 million provision against local authority swaps.

Earnings per share rose 39 per cent to 17.4p after the effects of the rights issue in 1988. The bank is raising its final dividend to 14.25p, making a total of 17.5p, up 22 per cent.

Last week, AIB announced a \$224 million bid for Baltimore Bancorp, to consolidate First Maryland, its existing US bank. It is holding an £862 million rights issue to finance the acquisition. The bank is waiting for a formal reply from Baltimore's board, expected to come at the annual meeting next week.

Much of AIB's growth came from its home base, where the bank still controls more than 40 per cent of the market, like its traditional rival, the Bank of Ireland. Pre-tax profits in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland grew by 33 per cent, boosted by the strong growth in the local economy.

The two countries still bring in 44 per cent of AIB's profits, but if the bid for Baltimore succeeds, the largest part of the group's assets will be in the



Strategy stand: Paddy Dowling (right) and Roy Douglas, UK group general manager

US. First Maryland has been

Britain. AIB continues to try to develop a niche bank, targeting smaller companies and professional practices.

It has 60 offices and wants to acquire a medium-sized building society to extend its branch network further.

The Latin American debt provision increases the bank's cover on Third World loans to 70 per cent. The write-off on local authority interest-rate

swap deals has arisen after the English Court of Appeal ruled that some contracts were beyond local authority powers and were invalid.

The bank's total assets grew 8 per cent to £15.9 billion in the year.

The advance was held back, however, by the strength of the Irish punt. Growth in the underlying currencies was 16 per cent.

Crystalate falls into red at half time

By Our City Staff

CRYSTALATE Holdings, the electronic components group where Lord Jenkin of Roding, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, is chairman, incurred a pre-tax loss of £897,000 in the half year to end-March, against profits of £2.29 million last time.

As a gesture of confidence, the interim dividend of 2.2p is maintained. Crystalate faces a hostile £32.5 million bid from TT Group, but last week, Vishay Intertechnology of Pennsylvania, one of its US suppliers, said it was considering a counter-bid and would give its decision by May 28.

By then, Crystalate will have to release all information relevant to its decision.

Lord Jenkin said his board was seeking clarification of the Americans' intentions. Meanwhile, shareholders should take no action over any documents released by Vishay.

The shares fell 2p to 80p on the interim figures, against an equivalent of 84p available in new shares from TT.

Crystalate saw just £31,000 of operating profits during the first half, and a £225,000 profit from the disposal of property was wiped out by interest charges 46 per cent higher at £1.15 million. The sale of the telecommunications division is complete.

Bank study backs use of interest rates on spending

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

EVIDENCE that deregulation and innovation in financial markets over the past decade have blunted interest rates as a counter-inflationary weapon is wholly unfounded, according to the Bank of England's latest *Quarterly Bulletin*.

Indeed, its study of how interest rate changes transmit to the economy concludes that a rise in interest rates has a greater impact on spending in Britain than in the past.

"The overall conclusion is that a rise in interest rates should currently have greater effect in reducing aggregate demand than previously," it says.

The findings back the Government's stance that interest rates are the right tool for curbing demand, and thereby inflation — a position widely attacked as a "one-club policy."

But while the Bank sees higher rates having more impact, entailing greater downward pressure on inflation, it believes a number of current factors, such as labour market tightness and wage pressures arising from the effect of mortgage rates on inflation, might limit the impact.

"In these circumstances, a fall in profit margins may be relatively more important," it suggests, also acknowledging

evidence of a "powerful link" between a stronger exchange rate and lower inflation.

The Bank concludes that the channels by which interest rates influence aggregate demand and inflation are now more clearly discernible than before.

The study, released ahead of today's publication of the bulletin, finds that examination of major overseas markets provided "little firm evidence" of any radical change in the way monetary policy influences the components of aggregate demand.

The initial impact of deregulation and structural change in the 1980s is seen to have reduced the effect of interest rates in Britain as borrowing became easier, but the availability and lower cost of credit boosted both sides of the personal sector's balance sheet.

The expansion of personal sector gross debt has taken it from being a net creditor to a net debtor on floating rate terms, making households more sensitive to interest rates, especially mortgage rates.

The study considers it likely the personal sector will be less able to maintain expenditure in the face of an increase in debt service costs.

WHO'S CEMENTING A £100 MILLION ALLIANCE WITH THE BUILDING INDUSTRY?



American steps up in Midland shuffle

By Our Banking Correspondent

MIDLAND Bank has shaken up its boardroom in an effort to speed its reorganization and combat falling profits. An American, Mr Gene Lockhart, becomes head of both group operations and the retail bank. It is rare for a foreigner to be given control of a high street bank's core business.

Mr Lockhart was previously chief executive of Midland's group operations division, and was responsible for reorganizing the entire back office operations. He replaces Mr Michael Fuller, the present chief executive of retail banking, who is retiring early after 41 years at the bank.

Mr Lockhart came to the bank in 1987 from First Management Consultants in New York.

His appointment was one of Sir Kit McMahon's first

Inflation 'to hit 10%'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE annual inflation rate will average 9.1 per cent this year, after peaking at 10 per cent in August, but will only show 9.5 per cent in the April data due on Friday. Schroders predicts in its weekly forecast. The City consensus for 1990 is 8.5 per cent.

Mr Keith Wade, Schroders chief economist, believes the impact of a 10 per cent

devaluation of the green pound may have been underestimated, and will exert upward pressure on inflation towards the end of the year, as will the uniform business rate.

He fears that private sector pay negotiators are holding back until the April figure is out, while local authority claims have still to be submitted.

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by about £50 million each year, Castle's investment will make a major contribution to reducing Britain's balance of trade deficit on building materials.

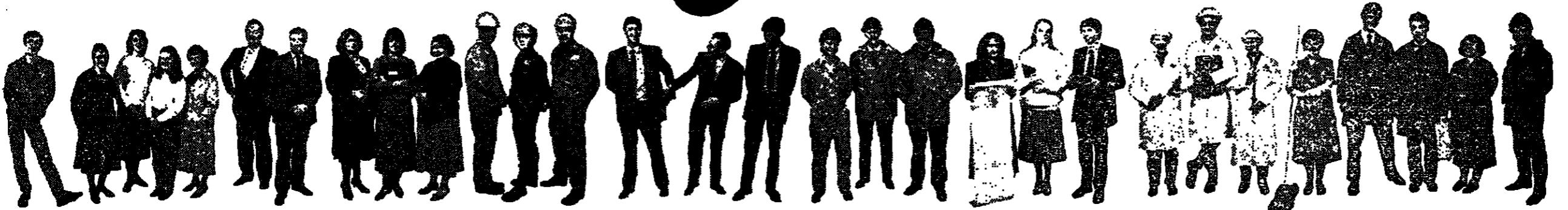
Today, more and more companies continue to choose British Coal for its predictable price and secure supply. And by doing so, help British Coal play a vital part in holding down Britain's balance of trade deficit.

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Teesside's well-established industries are still very important – in fact the area has one of the largest petro-chemical complexes in the world and many of the North Sea's oil platforms are built in its yards – but newer industries are also finding the skills and capabilities they need on Teesside. Backed by the education and training resources of Teesside Polytechnic and seven further education colleges, a plentiful supply of graduates, technicians, management-trained and craft-based people is readily available.

Teesside's rapidly-broadening economy now includes electronics, food processing, clothing manufacture, plastics, furniture, distribution and business services, in addition to well-established engineering and fabrication operations.

Teesside has many benefits to offer the growing business; a variety of premises and sites, financial assistance, good communications, and the vital ingredient – a dedicated workforce, skilled in meeting your working needs. To find out more contact: **Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel 0642 230636. Fax 0642 230843.**



TEESSIDE

Initiative Talent Ability

US insurance profits are not excessive, judge says

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA'S 17 million motorists can virtually say goodbye to any significant rebates they expected on car insurance as a result of reforms which became law last year.

The 4,000 insurance companies operating in the state, including Commercial Union, Royal and General Accident, had braced themselves for costs in rebates of between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

But Judge William Fernandez, of San Francisco, has delivered a 27-page opinion setting out a fair rate of return for insurance companies and effectively concluding they have not made excessive profits. If his ruling stands, there will be no reason for the companies to offer rebates.

Judge Fernandez has been

criticized for having an alleged conflict of interest over the issue by Mr John K Van de Kamp, the California Attorney General. Mr Van de Kamp wanted the judge taken off the case because his wife, Judith, works for a law firm which advises insurance companies. However, Judge Fernandez has had the support of Miss Roxann Gillespie, the Californian Insurance Commissioner, who has to rule whether she will accept his findings. Her guidelines on fair rates of return are six months late.

Judge Fernandez says insurance companies in California may earn a rate of return between 11.2 and 19 per cent. The insurance companies had been seeking between 16 and 21 per cent; the

insurance department wanted a fixed figure of 11.2 per cent. Judge Fernandez's findings have been welcomed by the insurance industry and are seen as some as a second blow to insurance reforms known as Proposition 103. This was designed to take insurance rates back to levels prevailing in November 1987 and then cut them by 20 per cent.

Consumer groups which inspired the legislation two years ago have condemned the findings as a farce. Mr Harvey Rosenfield, the Los Angeles consumer activist and author of Proposition 103, said it was as though the electorate had never cast their votes.

Mr Van de Kamp said that, under some accounting methods, Judge Fernandez's recommendations could give

insurance companies a profit margin of 35 per cent on some of their business. The judge recommended that when calculating a fair return, contributions to political organizations, lobby groups and charities ought to be excluded. But the salaries of the companies' executives ought to be counted as an expense.

According to the insurance department, companies have been making an average annual return of 11.2 per cent over the past 15 years — in line with or lower than recommendations from Judge Fernandez.

Last week, a Los Angeles judge swept aside other parts of Proposition 103 by telling insurance companies that they may continue setting premiums by post code, age, sex and marital status.

Deficit of £170m at NZ group

Auckland

CHASE Corporation, which earlier announced that it lost NZ\$274.3 million (£25.6 million) in the six months to December 31, showed a deficit on shareholders' funds of NZ\$494.0 million (£170.3 million) on December 31 against NZ\$419.8 million at June 30.

Chase, whose property arm was placed under statutory management last year, provided no comparison with the 1988 period in its statement, which failed to meet Stock Exchange requirements.

It notched up New Zealand's largest-ever corporate loss in the year to June 30 with a group loss of NZ\$841.4 million.

Chase sold NZ\$195 million of property in the six months.

It has operated under an informal moratorium and hopes to have a High Court scheme of arrangement in place by July. Chase said it is clear from its balance sheet that unsecured creditors will receive only a small payout.

It said: "It follows that the shares and options of Chase Corporation listed ... have no value." (Reuters)

Shorter runs hit profits at Titon

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at Titon Holdings, the Unlisted Securities Market window ventilator maker, fell 8.8 per cent to £706,000 in the six months to end-March, while turnover climbed by 9.3 per cent to £4.83 million.

Mr Peter Farrar, the chief executive, said the downturn in profits is due to a more competitive market, with some margin pressure, and less efficient manufacturing due to shorter production runs.

He added that although business is up by 9 per cent, demand is for shorter runs with more smaller orders.

Earnings per share are reduced from 4.69p to 4.25p, but the interim dividend is raised from 0.94p to 1.03p.

Mr John Anderson, the chairman, said that, despite the difficult trading conditions, the company has improved its market position.

He said the increase in sales volume came mainly from non-ventilation products — this is seen as good news for the company with the ventilation market yet to show its full

potential. The company should benefit from changes in building regulations, which came into effect from the beginning of April and specify background ventilation in all habitable rooms, although the slowdown in new building has resulted in a delay in the expected increase in ventilator sales. Domestic ventilation accounts for about 60 per cent of the group's business.

Titon has launched its Trimvent 4000 range of ventilators, ready for the change in regulations. The shares eased by 5p to 80p.

Rentokil is also taking over Jungles Interior Display Plants in Adelaide for £520,000. It will form the basis of an Adelaide tropical plant rental operation to parallel that in Sydney. Acquisitions are expected to accelerate its growth.

Rentokil (Canada) has acquired Pest Prevention Services for £350,000. This will form the basis of a pest control branch at Burlington, Ontario.

Rentokil expands overseas

By Our City Staff

RENTOKIL Group, the environmental and property services group, is making a series of purchases in the US, Australia and Canada for a total of £1.68 million.

In the US, Tropical Plant Rentals, the group's American subsidiary, has paid £470,000 for Maxine Interior Plantscape of Milwaukee, a market leader in tropical plant rental and maintenance.

In Australia, the company has won the distribution agency for Certina watches in Britain, which Mr Margulies says is an expensive brand

ago.

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Far East competition squeezes watches group

Profits run slow at Time Products

By Gillian Bowditch
TIME Products, the Sekonda watch group, is being squeezed in the Far East. Japanese competition and price-cutting in Hong Kong hit pre-tax profits for the year to January 1989 and they fell from £17.3 million to £15.1 million.

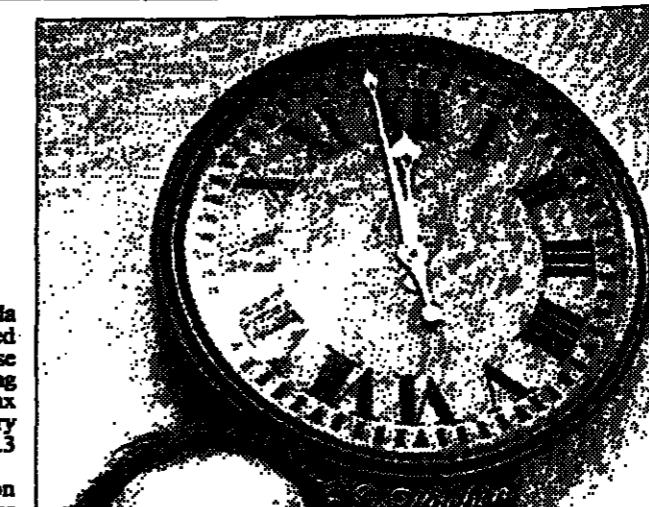
Sales rose from £62 million to £68.2 million but earnings per share fell from 24p to 20.6p. The final dividend is 4.5p making 7p for the year up from 6.5p.

British profits rose from £9.2 million to £9.7 million but profits from Hong Kong fell from £5.92 million to £1.95 million.

Mr Marcus Margulies, managing director of Time Products, said: "The major suppliers of watch movements to Hong Kong are the leading Japanese producers who increased production and reduced their prices considerably during the year. At this stage there is little indication that prices will rise. In the short term, therefore, profitability will remain depressed."

In Britain, Sekonda increased its market share and had a satisfactory year. Three new sub-brands of Sekonda were launched last year, the Safari collection, the Soviet collection and the Airborne range. Stubbs, a new prestige brand, with prices in the £35 to £65 range, was also launched last year.

Since the year-end, Time



Price movement: Time Products' Marcus Margulies

British standards with prices at about £120. The average watch price in Britain is £20 but he says that other nationalities, for example, the Italians, are more likely to spend £200 on a watch.

The luxury watch division had a good year with sales and profits significantly ahead.

Blancpain and Girard Perregaux did particularly well in North America.

The group has entered a joint venture with the Soviet watch industry, which Mr Margulies says should bring significant benefits in the long term. Shares in Time Products rose 3p to 157p.

Airlines plan tie with DHL

From Joe Joseph Tokyo

DHL, the world-wide service, is negotiating a tie-up with Japan Air Lines, Lufthansa and a big Japanese trading group in a deal that will eventually give the three supporters control.

By adding a sophisticated network of Asian and European air routes to DHL's network, the deal will heat up the already intense competition between DHL and Federal Express and United Parcel Service, DHL's two biggest American rivals.

A spokesman for JAL would only say: "We are studying a proposal to invest in DHL, but no final decision has been reached."

However, Nikkei Keizai Shim bun, Japan's leading financial daily, said a deal committing JAL, Lufthansa and Nissuo Iwai to investing \$500 million in DHL by 1992 could be reached this month.

The report said JAL and Lufthansa would take initial stakes of 5 per cent each, and Nissuo Iwai an initial stake of 2.5 per cent, in DHL's Asian and European operations.

By 1992, to coincide with the single European market, JAL, Lufthansa and Nissuo Iwai will own 60 per cent of DHL's Asian and European operations between them. By then, the three companies also plan to have acquired 20 per cent of DHL's American operations, the newspaper said.

DHL is privately owned by the handful of investors who started it 21 years ago. They want to increase DHL's muscle and realize some of their capital gains.

JAL has been particularly keen to raise its profile in the American freight business. It has air cargo services to main airports and uses local trucking companies from them. But DHL feels that its present network will not cope with the increasing competition.

JAL's strong presence in Asia and Lufthansa's in Europe will give DHL both an impressive world-wide reach and access to the airlines' information systems.

Cakebread falls

Pre-tax profits at Cakebread & Co, the Enfield builders' and timber merchant, slumped from £94,000 to £74,000 in the year to end-December. Turnover slipped from £26.4 million to £24.9 million. Earnings per share fell from 10.4p to 5.5p. The final dividend is reduced to 1.9p (3.5p), making 2.7p (4.1p).

Mandarin Oriental International Limited

Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of Mandarin Oriental International Limited will be held at the Connaught Rooms of Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong on Monday, 4th June 1990 at noon for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive and consider the Statement of Accounts and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the year ended 31st December 1989
- 2 To declare a final dividend
- 3 To re-elect Directors
- 4 To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration
- 5 To consider and, if thought fit, adopt with or without amendments, the following Ordinary Resolution:

a) the exercise by the Directors during the Relevant Period of all powers of the Company to allot or issue shares and to make and grant offers, agreements and options which would or might require shares to be allotted or be issued and is hereby generally and unconditionally approved;

b) the approval in paragraph a) shall authorise the Directors during the Relevant Period to make and grant offers, agreements and options which would or might require shares to be allotted, issued or disposed of after the end of the Relevant Period;

c) the aggregate nominal amount of share capital allotted or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be allotted (whether pursuant to an option or otherwise) by the Directors pursuant to the approval in paragraph a), otherwise than pursuant to a Rights Issue, or the issue of shares pursuant to the Mandarin Oriental Employee Share Purchase Trust, shall not exceed 10% of the aggregate nominal amount of the issued share capital of the Company and the said approval shall be limited accordingly;

d) for the purposes of this Resolution

"Relevant Period" means the period from the passing of this Resolution until whichever is the earlier of

(i) the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company; and

(ii) the expiration of the period within which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is required by law to be held;

"Rights Issue" means an offer of shares open for a period fixed by the Directors to holders of shares on the register on a fixed record date in proportion to their then holdings of such shares (subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to fractional entitlements or legal or practical problems under the laws of, or the requirements of any recognised regulatory body or any stock exchange in, any territory including, without limitation, arrangements relating to the disposal of shares which, by reason of such exclusions or arrangements, are not allotted to the shareholders who would otherwise have been entitled thereto).

By Order of the Board

RC KWOK Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 9th May 1990

Notes
1 A Member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him: a proxy need not also be a Member of the Company.

Completion and return of the proxy will not preclude a Member from attending and voting in person.

2 The Register of Members will be closed from 21st May to 25th May 1990 inclusive, to verify those shareholders entitled to the proposed final dividend of HK\$0.28 per share which will be payable on 11th June 1990 to those shareholders registered on 25th May 1990.

"As we enter the 1990s, our objective of continuing to generate superior performance is encouraged by our excellent results for the past year."

*Gerry Scanlan
Group Chief Executive*



First Class Service brings record results

AIB achieves record pre-tax profits of stg £229m — 52% up on last year

Total assets increased to stg £15.4 billion

EPS up 39% to stg 23.6p

Final dividend of stg 4.10p, giving stg 7.24p for the year

Britain — strong performance — profits up 23%

First Maryland Bancorp — 25% annual compound growth in profits for past 6 years

Allied Irish Banks plc

If you would like to receive a copy of the Group report and accounts, available from 12 June, please write to Group Librarian at AIB Bank, Bankcentre, Belmont Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex or telephone 0895 72222.



FHF says apathy is cause of demise

By Michael Clark
Stock Market Correspondent

FHF Market-Makers, a small firm of market-makers based in the Midlands, has become the latest casualty of the dramatic fall in turnover on the stock market in the wake of the 1987 crash.

The company said it had decided to cease trading from the close of business on Tuesday, but it emphasized that all agreements would be settled in the ordinary way.

The company said there were no debts involved with the decision to cease trading.

Mr Bob Watson, a director of FHF, admitted the decision on apathy among investors towards the equity market.

He said: "It really was a case of lack of interest in the stocks we dealt in. We specialized mainly in third-line engineering companies related to the Midlands industrial area."

FHF deals in about 150 issues, including a dozen alpha stocks and 60 beta stocks. The remainder of the list was made up of gamma stocks.

Mr Watson added: "Since the crash, most of the business has been done in the top 100 companies, or Alpha stocks. There is little interest in the smaller companies, and when there is, it is all one way — selling."

It is estimated that turnover levels among some broking houses has fallen by as much as 50 per cent in the past year, leading to renewed fears of another round of job losses in the securities industry.

A number of firms are struggling to generate the business needed to meet rising overheads.

Mr Watson said that regional market-makers were more vulnerable to the slide in equity turnover levels than many of the regional broking firms. The latter, he added, had managed to keep ticking over helped by their specialist knowledge of the region within which they operate and the corporate, institutional and private client business they had managed to build up in better times.

FHF was formed four years ago by a group of dealers after their local market-making firm was swallowed up in the run-up to Big Bang by UBS Phillips & Drew, the leading securities house.

Mr Watson said: "We saw a hole and decided that we could fill it."

Cheque costs checked

WHEN a building society bounces a customer's £10 cheque and charged him £5 he felt hard done by. But a Family Money survey shows that he got off lightly. It can

THE TIMES

ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

cost £15 for a bank or building society to refer a cheque to the drawer. Also under review on Saturday are store cards, the cost of cancelling a holiday and the level of protection afforded offshore investors.

STOCK MARKET

Monopolies inquiry knocks shares in car distributors

SHARES in Britain's motor distributors and component suppliers were thrown into disarray by the news that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is launching an inquiry into the pricing of new cars.

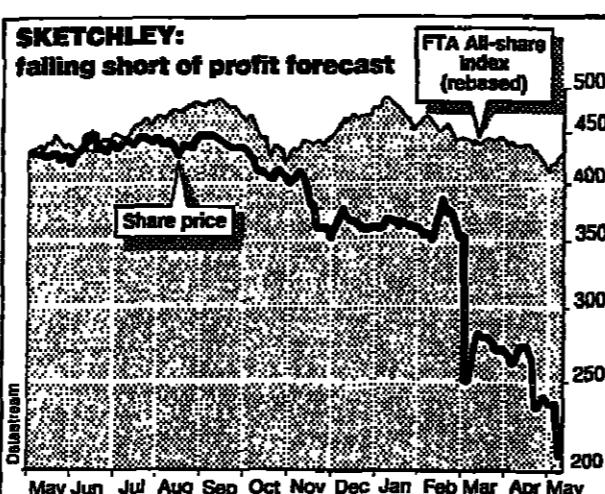
The MMC has been given the task of finding out why car prices are higher in this country than in the rest of Europe. The investigation is expected to last 15 months and will also look at the supply of replacement parts.

Falls were seen in distributors such as T Cowie, 5p to 34p, Appleby Group, 4p to 11p, Caffyns, 8p to 510p, Evans Halshaw, 9p to 185p, Frank G Gates, 3p to 92p, Gowings, 2p to 113p, Lex Service, 6p to 25p, Lookers, 4p to 111p, Perry Group, 5p to 143p, Quicks, 3p to 113p and Trimoco, 5p to 172p.

Companies supplying car components also failed to escape the markdown with losses reported in Kwik Fit, 2p to 64p, GKN, 6p to 389p, from 34p, BBA Group, 2p to 152p and Lucas Industries, 4p to 614p. British Aerospace, which owns Rover, lost 7p to 502p, worried about the deepening political row about its acquisition of Rover and the prospect of a further cut in defence spending which also left VSEL 13p lower at 27p.

The rest of the equity market showed signs of bottoming over after its recent rally, which has seen it climb by more than 100 points since reaching its low for the year last week. The FT-SE 100 index was 19.3 down at 2,627 as Wall Street opened easier. The FT index of 30 shares also fell 14.5 to 1,695.6 on a turnover of 425.8 million.

Government securities achieved early gains of 1%, drawing strength from the overnight auction of short-dated bonds in New York. But they eventually reversed the rises ahead of the second round which started last night. Heywood Williams continued to benefit from last week's



£96 million acquisition of Solaglas by Saint-Gobain, adding 1p to 268p — a rise on the account so far of 34p. Market men believe that the Solaglas takeover puts a high premium on Heywood. Rival Pilkington, Britain's biggest

glass manufacturer, slipped 5p to 186p but analysts expect its pre-tax profits of £6 million for the year which ended on March 30. But it now says that a number of under-provisions means it is unlikely to meet its target. A question mark also hangs over the proposed final dividend of

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Three Sketchley mainboard directors have had their service contracts terminated, including Mr Tony Coles, the managing director, Mr Richard Meyers, the finance director, and Mr David Travis, the personnel director.

Trafalgar House fell 4p to 292p after reporting interim pre-tax profits only £3.1 million ahead at £16.9 million.

The group blamed its virtually static profits performance on the depressed conditions in the commercial and residential property markets. It took a strong performance from its construction, shipping and hotel divisions to make up the difference which left earnings a share only 0.5p up at 18.5p.

Brent Walker lost 1p to 51p to finish 5p cheaper at 279p after producing some better-than-expected full-year figures. The leisure group, headed by Mr George Walker, reported pre-tax profits almost doubled at £2.2 million.

Anglo-Park Group, the property developer, was unchanged at 45p despite a buy recommendation from Société Générale. Strauss Turnbull, the broker, says the shares offer "excellent value" and an exceptional yield of 14.8 per cent. Future prospects are secure and it is forecasting rapid growth as the market picks up.

Brixton Estate slipped 1p to 162p although Royal Insurance has increased its stake to 15.2 per cent. Hammerson ordinary fell 6p to 738p and the A 5p to 714p. The Australian Provident Mutual Society, which last year bought Pearl Assurance, now owns 7.23 per cent of the ordinary and 9.73 per cent of the A.

McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered accommodation group, was a nervous market ahead of interim figures tomorrow, finishing 3p lower at 39p.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, fell 15p to £11.04.

Michael Clark

WORLD MARKETS

Investors in Tokyo sell after advance

Tokyo

SHARES closed slightly lower on profit-taking after the gains of the previous two days. The Nikkei index eased 2.47 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 30,495.61. In a day of few dominant factors, investors bought issues case-by-case. But brokers were heartened by another day of high turnover.

Mr George Nimmo, the manager of equities sales at SBCI Securities Japan, said: "It's good to see the market absorbing all the buying. The market is holding up remarkably well given the jitters we had a month ago."

Brokers said that the momentum on Tuesday continued into yesterday's trading, with about 700 million shares changing hands against 750 million.

The Nikkei surged in an early-morning rally, clearing 31,000 points, but fell in late morning on profit-taking and selling by arbitrageurs of long cash positions. Morning dealing finished with the index down 121 points. It retained some ground in thinner afternoon trading.

Rises outnumbered falls by more than five to four with 572 higher, 409 lower, and 139 unchanged.

Pharmaceuticals led the rises, followed by the property, credit/lease, paper/pulp, retail, machinery, airline, chemicals, steel and rubber sectors. Non-life insurers fell, as did the warehouse, oil/railway/bus, broking, communications, service, electrical and precision machinery sectors.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index shook off morning losses of almost 25 points to close down 11.31 at 2,942.7.

The broader-based Hong Kong index lost 7.05 to 1,932.50. Prices closed off their lows as institutions maintained their cautious stance.

● Frankfurt — The DAX index slipped 2.73 to 1,896.55. (Reuter)

WALL STREET

Profit-taking clips Dow

New York THE Dow Jones industrial average was down 3 points at

Portfolio

PLATÍNUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Laird	Industrials L-R	
2	High-Point	Industrials E-K	
3	Hilldown (aa)	Foods	
4	Bunzl (aa)	Paper,Print,Adv	
5	Utd Biscuits (aa)	Foods	
6	Budgen	Foods	
7	Lep	Transport	
8	Hardy O & G	Oil,Gas	
9	Penfins	Drapery Stores	
10	BPP	Newspapers,Pub	
11	Utd Newspapers (aa)	Newspapers,Pub	
12	Leica	Electricals	
13	Stormgard	Industrials S-Z	
14	Wardle Storeys plc	Chemicals,Plus	
15	Waterglade	Property	
16	Faircy Group	Industrials E-K	
17	Boot (Henry)	Building,Roads	
18	Waverley Cam	Paper,Print,Adv	
19	Dacian	Property	
20	Rank Org (aa)	Industrials L-R	
21	Stylo	Shoes, Leather	
22	Johnson Matthey	Industrials E-K	
23	RMC Gp (aa)	Building,Roads	
24	King & Shaxson	Banks,Discount	
25	Wood (Arthur)	Industrials S-Z	
26	Southeast	Newspapers,Pub	
27	Compass Gp	Leisure	
28	Vosper Thornycroft	Industrials S-Z	
29	EIS	Industrials E-K	
30	Barbour Index	Newspapers,Pub	
31	Bass (aa)	Breweries	
32	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	
33	Nutrin Foods (aa)	Foods	
34	Cookson (aa)	Industrials A-D	
35	Greest	Foods	
36	Leigh	Chemicals,Plus	
37	Voxon	Electricals	
38	Barrett (H)	Industrials A-D	
39	Sirdar	Textiles	
40	Scholes Grp	Electricals	
41	Bourne End	Property	
42	WPP	Paper,Print,Adv	
43	Evered	Building,Roads	
44	Frogmore	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Wednesday Total

Two people shared the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr William Thompson, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Angela Kingsbury, of Reading, Berkshire, receive £2,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

BARTENDER'S CHOICE				Int only year	Gross Rec'd ytd%
7550	High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

99%	85%	Trees	3%	1950	95%	•	-	800	0.0000
98%	87%	Trees	5%	1950	95%	•	-	811	11.5555
97%	87%	Trees	6%	1957-60	95%	•	-	813	13.2222
97%	82%	Trees	10%	1950	97%	•	-	162	12.4048
92%	82%	Trees	3%	1951	92%	•	-	32	10.4971
94%	80%	Fund	2%	1972-81	94%	•	-	122	12.7767
92%	80%	Trees	5%	1951	91%	•	-	817	14.0889
95%	94%	Trees	C	10%	1951	95%	•	104	11.3085
87%	85%	Each	11%	1951	95%	•	-	111	14.6555
56%	57%	Trees	11%	1951	95%	•	-	35	11.0000
84%	82%	Trees	3%	1952	95%	•	-	807	13.9555
51%	55%	Trees	4%	1952	95%	•	-	165	14.1667
59%	57%	Trees	10%	1952	95%	•	-	166	11.3455
57%	57%	Trees	C10%	1952	94%	•	-	111	11.3455
100%	82%	Each	12%	1952	95%	•	-	125	13.9555
101%	87%	Trees	12%	1952	95%	•	-	130	14.0771
103%	84%	Each	13%	1952	95%	•	-	135	13.9222
85%	81%	Fund	5%	1953	95%	•	-	72	12.2222
61%	55%	Trees	5%	1953	85	•	-	83	13.5555
93%	87%	Trees	10%	1953	91%	•	-	106	13.4555
102%	95%	Trees	12%	1953	97%	•	-	125	13.5455
107%	84	Trees	15%	1953	100%	•	-	135	13.4167
50%	84%	Trees	8%	1954	95%	•	-	93	13.1111
52%	84%	Trees	9%	1954	95%	•	-	110	13.1212
95%	84	Trees	10%	1954	90%	•	-	135	13.1515
104%	86	Each	12%	1954	97%	•	-	125	13.2222
107%	84%	Trees	13%	1954	100%	•	-	134	13.2333
110%	100%	Trees	14%	1954	103%	•	-	139	13.1919

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

78%	72%	Gas	3%	1990-95	74%	●	4.07	9.91
96%	88%	Exch	10%	1990-95	56%	●	-1.7	9.91
103%	94%	Treas	12%	1995	56%	●	-1.2	13.14
107%	94%	Treas	12%	1995	56%	●	-1.2	12.8
92%	82%	Treas	6%	1982-95	84%	●	12.0	12.97
96%	82%	Conv	10%	1985	100%	●	13.1	13.05
110%	95%	Exch	13%	1995	100%	●	13.1	11.19
112% 101%	95%	Treas	4%	1995	103%	●	14.0	13.05
115%	95%	Treas	15%	1995	108%	●	14.7	12.72
92%	82%	Exch	8%	1995	81%	●	11.7	2.51
95%	87%	Exch	10%	1997	88%	●	13.1	13.03
111%	98%	Treas	13%	1997	100%	●	13.1	12.97
120%	102%	Exch	15%	1997	105%	●	9.3	12.37
80%	68%	Treas	5%	1995-98	72	●	11.4	12.76
95%	83%	Exch	9%	1995	85%	●	13.1	12.97
107%	88%	Treas	12%	1995	95%	●	13.1	12.97
126%	110%	Treas	15%	1995	112%	●	12.23	12.23
93%	82%	Treas	5%	1995	88%	●	11.5	12.67
88%	81%	Conv	10%	1995	88%	●	11.5	12.72
89%	84%	Treas	10%	1995	88%	●	12.5	12.54
93%	84%	Treas	12%	1995	78	●	10.8	12.34
84%	74%	Conv	6%	2000	81%	●	11.0	12.37
81%	78%	Conv	5%	2000	81%	●	12.0	12.85
114%	95%	Treas	13%	2000	101%	●	11.5	12.45
95%	85%	Treas	9%	2007	88%	●	11.7	12.50
97%	82%	Treas	10%	2001	85%	●	11.5	12.50
91%	82%	Treas	10%	2001	85%	●	13.4	13.09
116%	97%	Treas	14%	1995-01	104%	●	11.5	12.33
91%	76%	Exch	5%	2002	75%	●	14.5	12.33
96%	81%	Treas	9%	2002	87%	●	11.5	12.13
97%	84%	Conv	10%	2002	88%	●	11.5	12.13
98%	82%	Treas	10%	2002	90%	●	13.0	12.65
118%	102%	Treas	10%	2000-03	105%	●	7.0	12.62
88%	75%	Fund	3%	1998-04	48%	●	11.4	12.00
95%	82%	Treas	5%	2004	63%	●	11.4	12.00
99%	82%	Treas	10%	2004	85%	●	11.6	12.07
105%	92%	Treas	11%	2001-04	93%	●	12.3	12.55

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS											
Year	Age	Sex	Year	Age	Sex	Year	Age	Sex	Year	Age	Sex
957	79%	Com.	91%	2005	89%	2005	11%	Exch.	11%	11.6	11.87%
1034	86%	Exch.	105%	2006	90%	2006	10%	Com.	11%	12.1	12.17%
1156	95%	Tran.	125%	2007	102%	2007	11%	Exch.	11%	11.8	11.80%
884	70%	Tran.	82%	2008	72%	2008	77%	Tran.	17%	17.1	17.65%
1111	93%	Tran.	11%	2008-07	97%	2008	12%	Tran.	12%	12.0	12.05%
934	77%	Tran.	9%	2008	80%	2008	12%	Tran.	12%	12.1	12.14%
125	105%	Tran.	13%	2008-08	70%	2008	10%	Tran.	10%	10.9	11.50%
854	69%	Tran.	6%	2009	70%	2009	10%	Tran.	11%	11.1	11.47%
94	77%	Tran.	6%	2011	80%	2011	10%	Tran.	11%	11.3	11.25%
762	73%	Tran.	5%	2008-12	53%	2008-12	10%	Tran.	11%	11.0	11.38%
624	67%	Tran.	7%	2012-15	70%	2012-15	10%	Tran.	11%	11.0	11.38%
1213	100%	Exch.	12%	2013-17	104%	2013-17	104%	Exch.	11%	11.5	11.51%

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INDEX-LINKED

RANKS DISCOUNT HP

		BANKS, DISCOUNT H.P.											
1990		High		Low		Company		Prev Bid	Prev Offer	Gross Ch'reg	Per Gross	Yld %	Per F.
196	173	Abbey National (Int)	168	180	175	-	-	-	-	10.3	5.4	7.1	
365	224	Allied Corp	220	220	215	-	-	-	-	4.4	2.3	4.9	
555	173	Anglo Am	165	175	165	-	-	-	-	2.3	1.3	2.3	
565	68	Amersuisse (Switzerland)	65	70	65	-	-	-	-	1.3	0.8	1.3	
219	218	Am. New Z	222	225	225	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
148	148	Bankers Trust	175	175	175	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
226	224	Bank of Ireland	222	225	225	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
196	196	Bank Leumi (Israel)	18	18	18	-	-	-	-	20.0	10.0	16.7	
345	327	Bank of Scotland	325	325	325	-	-	-	-	2.1	1.1	2.7	
125	125	Bank of St. Louis	105	105	105	-	-	-	-	3.7	2.3	3.8	
565	555	Barclays (UK)	38	38	38	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
565	555	Banque de Paris et des P. C. (Paris)	12	12	12	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
454	454	Banque de Suisse	13	13	13	-	-	-	-	14.7	4.7	14.7	
355	355	Banc One (USA)	310	310	305	-	-	-	-	5.3	3.3	5.3	
316	316	Brown Brothers Harriman	365	365	365	-	-	-	-	4.5	3.2	4.5	
565	565	Brown, Shipley & Co.	51	51	51	-	-	-	-	17.5	11.3	17.5	
177	177	Camborne	133	133	133	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
215	184	Caribbean Merchant Bank	144	144	144	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
215	184	Citibank	130	130	130	-	-	-	-	9.5	6.5	12.5	
208	208	Citco Bros	202	212	212	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
220	201	Commercial Bank of Chile	1065	1065	1065	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	
243	201	Commercial Bank of Uruguay	2065	2065	2065	-	-	-	-	17.3	11.3	17.3	
243	162	Conf. Nat Fin	195	195	195	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.2	1.4	
	565	Fin. Min	20	20	20	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	1.1	

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market weak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 30. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day May 14. Settlement day May 21.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

Ex date / Ex date / Forecast dividend & interim dividend / Price at suspension & Dividend and forecast a special payment? Pre-merger figures as at 31 March 1993 / Ex date / Ex rights & Ex scrip or scrip / Tax-free .. No significant date.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Voice of growing concern

There are many aid agencies in the United Kingdom to help older people and those who care for them get the best out of life (Pat Blair writes). Many turn to Citizens' Advice Bureaux and there is a multiplicity of voluntary bodies providing specific services, such as Meals on Wheels.

The two main organizations are Age Concern – a confederation of local independent groups under the four national bodies in the British Isles – and Help the Aged, a charity that concerns itself with older people here and overseas, providing information by telephone and in print and running a housing division to manage 500 sheltered and unsheltered dwellings, as well as residential homes and donated houses.

Celebrating its golden jubilee this year, Age Concern England is a younger compared to the people it serves. By the year 2000, there will be nearly 10 million people over the age of retirement. Most are likely to be reasonably healthy and active, but they will have profound effects nationally on social policy, pension planning and health care.

Through its advice to governments on policy and its service of help and information to individuals and groups, Age Concern England has come to a position of influence in the care and welfare of older citizens, providing well-researched facts and figures.

"We were the first voluntary agency to have some help an all-party group of MPs to raise the level of debate about older people," Dr Sally Greengross, the director of Age Concern England, says. "We now serve two all-party groups, one in the Lords and one in the Commons. It does the same on a European level. For a voluntary organization we have a sophisticated policy and organization department which is working all the time on legislation and proposals."

Age Concern is the country's largest such charity and brings together more than 80 organizations and representatives of its confederation of about 1,100 independent local Age Concern groups in England. If one includes the other three national Age Concern federations, there are about 1,500 such groups in the UK in contact with millions.

Age Concern England is undertaking eight pilot projects to see how computers can be used to impart information on both national and local services to a wider number of people. If feasible, computers would be based with local Age Concern groups.

Along with King's College, London University, the agency established in 1986, the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology to further the study of that speciality, the academic study of age and ageing.

Pat Blair examines controversial plans to care for the old at home or in the private sector

Government intentions towards community services affecting elderly people living at home or in residences other than hospitals have provoked a mixture of hope and disappointment among professionals, voluntary organizations and the private care sector.

There are fears that the range of proposals, in a White Paper that followed an inquiry by Sir Roy Griffiths, and the National Health Service and Community Care Bill now going through Parliament, will miss their mark unless there is real co-operation between all the agencies involved, something that has often failed to happen in the past.

The Bill would, from next April, make local authorities the co-ordinating agencies for community care. They would be expected to place greater emphasis on looking after people in their own homes wherever possible and also to make greater use of private sector facilities.

Getting this system right is important when the number of people aged over 65 is projected to rise by almost a million after the turn of the century – and those aged over 85, the most dependent, by more than half a million.

Professor Elaine Murphy, a psychogeriatrician and general manager of Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority, says: "With our knowledge at the moment it is easy to predict the services that will be required. It is manageable."

The new legislation will help. "Health authorities need to sit down with local authorities and agree on the spectrum of provision of care – from those with a mild degree of dependency to those wholly dependent and ensure we have a comprehensive plan to fill in all the gaps."

When it comes to accommodation there is a wide range of options, although choice is not available to everyone, often because of lack of money. There is supported care in ones own homes, retirement housing, sheltered housing, where a care warden is on hand; residential homes, public and private, which have to be registered with the local authority, and nursing homes – health-authority registered – which are mostly private or run by charitable organizations, although there are three National Health Service nursing homes under a pilot scheme. Limited resources have meant that many local authorities have been unable to expand their provision of homes for elderly people, which has left much of the development to the private and voluntary sectors. They contain some of the best provision there is, and also some of the worst, but what concerns many people is how to pay for it.

According to Dr Sally Greengross, the director of Age Concern England:

"The latest worries we have had and have been very forceful about to government have been the problems of people in residential care and nursing homes who have literally run out of money."

The trouble lies in this gap between what people and the state or local authorities will pay and what it costs to run homes and services for dependent elderly people.

The NHS nursing homes experiment was set up because of the cost of keeping old people unnecessarily in hospital. However, according to an evaluation by Newcastle University for the Department of Health, they have proved to be only slightly cheaper and the indications are that the private sector can perform the role more cost-effectively.



Smiling through: the number of people aged over 65 is projected to rise by almost a million by the year 2000

Raising the gentle hand of warning

"The private sector also wants to provide domiciliary and out-reach services, but the great fear is that the amount of remuneration coming from social services for this type of care will not cover their costs," says Dr Patrick Carr, chief executive of the Residential Nursing Home Association.

While being critical of the Government's proposals, Dr Carr is equally scathing of those who are in the nursing-home business for profit at the expense of good care. He would like to see the "cowboys" pushed out. He defines them as those "more interested in making money than giving genuine care".

"Everybody in independent health care needs to make money if you can't, you will go out of business," he says. But the association's 22 years of

experience suggests that there are between a third and a quarter of the nursing homes in the country that it would not admit into membership.

The association runs its own inspectorate, with qualified nurses checking the quality of care in homes, whether they are palatial or more simple abodes. "Over the past four years, we have turned down and/or put out of membership about a 100 nursing homes," he says. Those homes are still operating, still registered by the health authority, he says, although the association does inform the local authority concerned.

Tacitly, he says, health authorities agree that they often take no further action as they would be left with the problem of where to accommodate the residents if the home was closed.

Age goes under the microscope

Studies may help to cut accidents

Are elderly drivers at greater risk? Do they have more accidents and what makes them after their driving habits? The answers are not known – yet. However, by 1992, when the single European market comes into being, researchers collaborating in Britain and The Netherlands may have discovered more about normal older drivers (Pat Blair writes).

The study, requested by the European Commission's Drive Programme, is one of many under way at the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology, King's College, London. The unanswered questions show how little is known about normal old age.

Although gerontology – the study of ageing and old age – has long been an academic subject, it was only in 1986 that the institute was set up. It came, says Anthea Tinker, professor of social gerontology at King's College and director of the institute, from Age Concern's research unit, which sought a more academic environment with access to a wider range of disciplines.

King's was chosen as its base because of the number of people at the university who were already studying old age – more than 60 in all academic fields, from nursing to biomolecular studies. "That was the key," Prof Tinker says, "the potential for multidisciplinary research."

This month the institute publishes research after a three-year study, tested at Ipswich, Suffolk and Newham, east London, to assess whether elderly people with dementia can be sustained in their own homes for longer than at present possible, by providing additional support.

It is also starting a five-year study into successful survival in the community, looking at indications of how much care people will need around the age of 85, and considering whether they will have to move into institutions.

Prof Tinker says: "We are looking at those who survive independently with a reasonable quality of care and

quality of life and at the end of the time trying to tease out what enabled them to do so."

Whether it is from such studies as looking into services for ethnic minorities, commissioned by the Department of Health, or the effects of fluorescent lighting on the eyesight of the elderly, funded by industry and with the resources of Moorfields Eye Hospital, the institute aims to spread as widely as possible the knowledge it has accumulated, to help planners, policy-makers and the providers of services as well as older people themselves.

For example, in investigating the causes and consequences of falls among old



Professor Anthea Tinker: great potential for research

people, under a study funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, the institute wants to identify which people fall and what can be done to prevent, treat and rehabilitate.

The second stage of research involves seeking similar examples in other countries, such as community-teaching programmes or educational video films on how to make the home safer.

"In the third stage, we are going to set up a big demonstration project – if we get the funding – based at King's College Hospital, which will bring the best of everything we have learnt from all over the world," Prof Tinker says. "We will then see if we can, over a period of time, reduce the number of accidents."

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CARE OF THE ELDERLY/2

FOCUS

Computer techniques could make life easier and safer for the elderly. Pat Blair looks at a new industry advocated by a university scientist

ADRIAN BROOKS



Handy: Professor Wolff shows stick-on components for managing switches and plugs



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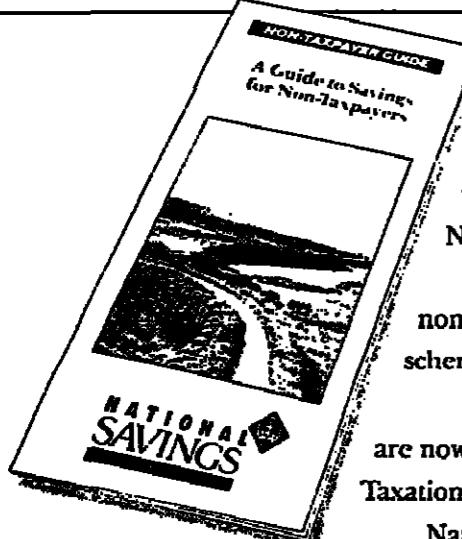
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FOCUS

CARE OF THE ELDERLY/3

The skills of older people are becoming increasingly sought after by employers, Ann Hills writes

The untapped force

Work after work is at last coming into vogue as new initiatives start to meet employers' demands and provide opportunities for a vast, underused mature workforce.

Third Age Network — a membership organization — was launched in April. Its key task is to ease men and women in this age bracket — approximately 50 to 75 — back into stimulating employment.

John Farago, director of the network, says: "We have a data base of people who are available for employment; we ask them to emphasize what they want to do rather than what they have done."

The data base contains 2,000 names. "I hope to get 10,000; even that is only one out of 1,000 of the potential — a total of 10 million people over 50 who are economically inactive," says Mr Farago, aged 61, who ended his full-time career as chairman and

chief executive of Bunzl Australia, a paper company.

The network, which will form local branches, is backed by top companies, from Coats Vinylla to British Telecom and the Pearson Group, and by the Department of Employment.

A newsletter, *Transitions*, is spreading its philosophy.

The current issue of *Transitions* reports the launch of the Carnegie Trust's three-year, £750,000 inquiry, "Life, Work and Livelihood in the Third Age".

The director, Terri Banks, who was formerly director of the Office of Population Censuses & Surveys (OPCS), says: "We shall look at the key policy issues for this emerging and important age group; at the work opportunities; at what people want and the role of institutions and the government."

Shell is the main sponsor of another new venture — Age Resource Rewards — being announced next week. This will promote schemes which foster the employment of older people, says Bob Boote, former director general of the Nature Conservancy Council, who at 70 is backing the venture because "we need to create an enormous shift of attitudes".

Such a shift has taken root among the largest retailers, including Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda. The reason is simply the tremendous demand for staff.

"We have a workforce of about 86,500 in the UK," Prue Raper, Sainsbury's press officer, says. Turnover can be as high as 40 per cent, creating huge gaps on top of new jobs which number about 10,000 every three years as stores open at the rate of nearly two a month.

Sainsbury's calculates that nearly 500 of its staff are over 65 and two are over 80. Most of the jobs available to older people are basic — shelf fillers, cashiers and others under the heading of customer service. Junior managers are allowed to stay on beyond the normal retirement age (60 for women, 65 for men) when appropriate. Senior managers still have to leave, although that policy is under review.

Sixty-seven-year-old Joan Ernestine Bagshaw's career as



Success After Sixty: agency interviewers Michael McPartlin and Beryl Davis

reliability and stability of older staff. It has nearly 7,000 staff over 55, although only a few hundred are over 65. The rise will continue now that 70 is the official cut-off year.

Absenteeism among this group is lower than among the under-30s, a spokesman says, noting that the older employees' regard for high standards has a welcome spin-off among younger staff, who often prefer to consult a mature colleague for advice rather than a supervisor.

Asda, which launched a recruitment drive targeting the 50 to 70 age group last November, also expects its age profile to rise in the coming months. Unfortunately, such enlightened attitudes have not permeated society.

"Employers tell me 'we've got another five or 10 years' work out of them'. They don't demand that of youngsters," says Yvonne Pedretti, general manager of the West End and City branches of Success After Sixty. This employment agency places about 20 people in work each month in each of its four branches.

Sixty-seven-year-old Joan Ernestine Bagshaw's career as

a senior legal adviser in the Civil Service came to an abrupt and unwelcome end at the age of 65. As a barrister, she was an asset soon snapped up by a "forward-looking trade and technology association" where she is a legal adviser on European Community law.

The increasing amount of work for older people is not arising out of goodwill, but from shortages which leave yawning gaps. Among government departments plugging those gaps is the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which has an advertising campaign to entice people out of retirement to become reference secretaries.

These secretaries serve a group of commissioners during inquiries. They need keen minds capable of marshalling extensive evidence. A 63-year-old reference secretary, who wishes to remain unnamed, had previously been forced to retire from a more senior grade in the Civil Service at 60. But he continues working, months at a time, comfortable with the fact that his career

Help for hidden army

More than 2.5 million elderly people are looking after someone older, more ill, more disabled or more frail than themselves (*Pat Blair writes*). Of the estimated six million carers nationally who provide a regular unpaid service to friends or relatives, 42 per cent are over the age of

retirement. Jill Pikeathly, of the Carers' Association, a woman looking after two parents aged 96, and an autistic son. "Because of the stress of that, worries about the poll tax and so on, she has had a nervous breakdown and been admitted to hospital."

Most important perhaps is respite care — either as temporary accommodation to

give the carer a break, or a sitting service to let them have an afternoon off.

Last year, the Carers Unit set up a number of projects in partnership with local health and social service agencies to find new ways to offer flexible and reliable help to carers. A report on its findings is due in 1992.

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CARELECTRIC

Travel costs of successful defendant in person

The Law Society v Persaud
Before Mr Justice Hobhouse
[Judgment May 8]

A successful defendant was entitled to the cost of travelling from South Africa to England to conduct his case in person and to the reasonable cost of travel between Birmingham and London in connection with the case.

Although a litigant in person could not be allowed the cost of counsel who was not employed, that did not mean the taxing master was required to disallow a disbursement actually incurred so as to avoid the necessity of employing not only a solicitor but also a counsel.

Mr Justice Hobhouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for Norman Ernest Persaud on a review of taxation.

Order 62, rule 18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides:

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this rule, on any taxation of the costs of a litigant in person there may be allowed such costs as would have been allowed if the work and disbursements to which the costs relate had been done or made by a solicitor on the client's behalf."

"(2) The amount allowed in respect of any item shall be such sum as the taxing officer thinks fit but not exceeding, except in the case of a disbursement, two-thirds of the sum which in the opinion of the taxing officer would have been allowed in respect of that item if the litigant had been represented by a solicitor."

Mr Denis Grant, costs draftsman, for the Law Society; Mr Persaud in person.

MR JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said the defendant was living in South Africa and there received

notice of the issue of a writ by the Law Society for the recovery of money allegedly owed under a legal aid certificate.

The plaintiffs had obtained summary judgment and a charging order which the defendant had successfully contested in person.

There remained a dispute

between the parties over the disallowance by the taxing master, Master Wright, of various travelling expenses incurred by the defendant.

Those fell into two categories: first, the cost, totalling £1,391.25 of travelling from South Africa to England to defend the action in person and second, the cost of travelling between Birmingham and London, the reasonable element of which was £74.

The plaintiffs did not suggest that the defendant had been extravagant or acted in bad faith. They said the disbursements did not come within the terms of Order 62, rule 18(1).

They said no solicitor would ever have been allowed to charge as a disbursement the cost of travelling from South Africa to England since the solicitor would already be in England.

Similarly, the costs of travelling from Birmingham to London would not be allowed to a solicitor because if a solicitor had been instructed it clearly should have been a solicitor in London who would not incur the costs of travelling from Birmingham to London.

The taxing master had accepted the plaintiff's submissions on those points.

His Lordship had been told that a London solicitor would never be justified in including in his disbursements the cost of travelling from South Africa to England.

Mr Justice Hobhouse so held when refusing applications for judicial

land or from Birmingham to London for the purpose of attending hearings in London.

But, it was contended, that was not the relevant scenario.

The defendant was conducting the litigation himself. He argued that the disbursements were reasonably made because he chose not to instruct a London solicitor.

A course of conduct which reduced the overall costs bill could not be described as unreasonable unless it had some other characteristic which created that unreasonableness; acting in person was not such a characteristic.

The criterion of reasonableness was more than sufficient to cover the very modest travelling expenses incurred between Birmingham and London.

The situation regarding travel from South Africa to England was not so straightforward. The defendant could justify £747 of that cost (that is, £821 less £74) on the same logic as the Birmingham to London trips. But he had to find other reasons to justify the remaining £644.25 of the travel costs.

He had to argue that if he had been legally represented, he would have had counsel as well as a solicitor. This raised another difficult question because he did not have counsel and was not, following the Court of Appeal decision in *Hart v The Age Khan Foundation* ([1984] 1 WLR 994), to be treated as if he notionally had had counsel.

It would have been reasonable for him to have been represented by counsel, as were the plaintiffs. Would those disbursements have been allowed if made by a solicitor on the litigant's behalf?

His Lordship held that those were disbursements capable of recognition as solicitor's disbursements.

Pearce v Chief Adjudication Officer Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Bingham [Judgment May 8]

There was nothing in the Court of Appeal decision in *Hart v The Age Khan Foundation* which precluded the taxing master from allowing reasonable disbursements which had in fact been incurred.

Unlike the costs in dispute in *Hart*'s case the defendant's disbursements were not nominal but were actual and if reasonable and if a solicitor had been employed could and would have been included in a solicitor's bill.

The fact that the Court of Appeal had said one should not allow the cost of counsel who were not employed did not mean that the taxing master was required to disallow a disbursement actually incurred so as to avoid the necessity of employing not only a solicitor but also a counsel.

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His Lordship held that those were disbursements capable of recognition as solicitor's disbursements.

Solicitors: Penningtons for

Carson & Co, Wethstone.

No increase in benefit for costs extra to home

Pearce v Chief Adjudication Officer Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Bingham [Judgment May 8]

run by the Abbeyfield Society. They were provided with separate for laundry, attendance and special diet.

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with regulation 9(4) and (4A).

The claimant, having paid separately for laundry, attendance and special diet, might be thought, as he contended, to have paid separate charges for the purposes of the 1983 Regulations.

In 1987 an adjudication officer had decided that the claimant was entitled to supplementary benefit in an amount sufficient to meet the cost of board and lodging.

However, the claimant challenged the amount of that benefit on the ground that it made no allowance for the cost to him of laundry, attendance and domestic assistance for his wife and for a special diet for himself.

Those services were not provided by Trevor House but by third parties to whom the claimant made payment direct.

In June 1988 an appeal tribunal gave a decision in favour of the claimant, holding that under regulation 9(4A) the weekly amount for board and lodging could be increased to cover the cost of additional services.

Against that decision the adjudication officer appealed to the Social Security Commissioner, Mr D. G. Rice, refusing his claim for supplementary benefit to be increased.

Regulation 9(4A) provides: "Where in addition to the weekly amount for board and lodging in a nursing or residential care home, as calculated in accordance with paragraph 4, a separate charge is made for the provision of heating, attendance, extra baths, laundry, any special diet ... or domestic assistance, the weekly amount for board and lodging shall be increased by the amount of that charge."

Mr Richard Drabble for the claimant; Miss Geneva Caws for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LODGE JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised a question of construction on regulation 9(4A). Although supplementary benefit was replaced by income support in 1988, the same question could still arise.

While the burden placed on the Divisional Court might sometimes be an onerous one when this provision was relied upon, the restraint upon admission in section 26, properly regarded, afforded adequate protection for a defendant.

Counsel for Lawyer submitted that the fear had to be genuine and based on reasonable grounds and the test was objective not subjective. His Lordship did not agree.

It was not helpful in the context to speak of the objective or subjective approach. It would be sufficient that the court, on the evidence, was sure that the witness was in fear, as a consequence of the material offence or of something said or done subsequently in relation to it and the possibility of the witness being put at risk by it.

Mr Georgiades had referred them to *Lord v Hansard* on the debate in Parliament on the provision and reservations about looking at *Hansard* for the purpose of discovering what Parliament intended legislation to mean. He had done so but without deriving from that such assistance as claimed by Mr Georgiades.

Whatever else might be seen to present difficulties for the court in those provisions there was no doubt, in his Lordship's view, that the dual test, admissibility and whether to admit, which had to be applied before a statement was admitted, was the statement ought in the interests of justice to be admitted.

That was very largely because the words of the provision were, in his Lordship's judgment, as plain as a pylon sign and cut out ready to be read distinctly.

There were two unruly horses, one named "Tea" and the other "kept out of the way".

Solicitors: Powell, McGrath & Spencer, Kilburn; Murray's, Southwark; CPS, Queen Anne's Gate.

Sergeant and Another v National Westminster Bank plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Bingham and Sir George Waller [Judgment May 4]

Tradesmen for sale of land of which they themselves had originally granted to them and to their brother, Charles, who had died in an air crash in 1974. All of the land had until 1974 been farmed by the three children in partnership.

Those submissions made it necessary for the origins of the trustees' rights and duties to be considered. Between the testator's death and Charles's death, each child was tenant, trustee and beneficiary in common with the others. Although each had the duties of a trustee, he or she also had the rights of a beneficiary.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Bingham gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Sinclair Taylor & Martin, North Kensington; Solicitor, DfSS.

Trustees can sell freeholds subject to interests they hold

the tenants of the farms under tenancies which the testator had

granted to them and to their brother, Charles, who had died in an air crash in 1974. All of the land had until 1974 been farmed by the three children in partnership.

The defendants, the owners of the remaining third of the freehold subject to the tenancies, were the personal representatives of Charles.

The will contained an express power for a trustee to purchase trust property. The plaintiffs now wished to purchase the freehold of the largest farm and sell the other two for development.

The defendants, relying on the rule that a trustee must not put himself in a position where his interest and duty conflicted, sought declarations that the plaintiffs were not entitled to sell the other two for development.

Mr Ian Romer for the defendants; Mr David M. Burton for the trustees.

LODGE JUSTICE NOURSE said that the rule that a trustee must not profit from his trust held that prevention was better than cure. While the rule invariably required that a profit should be yielded up, it preferred to intervene beforehand by dissolving the connection of which the profit might be made.

At that stage the rule was expressed by saying that a trustee must not put himself in a position where his interest and duty conflicted. But to express it in that way was to acknowledge that if he was put there, not by himself, but by the testator or settlor under whose dispositions his trust arose, the rule did not apply.

Relying on the judgment of Lord Herschell in *Bray v Ford* (1896) AC 44, 51, which had been given by Lord Upton in *Philips v Boulton* ([1967] 2 AC 461, 423) as the best statement of the rule, Mr Romer submitted that the plaintiffs' duty was to obtain the best price for the freeholds of the farms which, admittedly, could only be obtained by a sale with vacant possession, whereas the plaintiffs' interest was to preserve their tenancies and to sell subject to them in which event the best price would not be obtained.

Therefore, Mr Romer said, if the plaintiffs went ahead and

sold subject to the tenancies, either to themselves or to a third party, they would be putting themselves in a position where their interest and duty conflicted.

Thenceforth, each of the

plaintiffs continued to have the rights of a tenant and a beneficiary.

Doubling, since Charles's death, the plaintiffs had been in a position where their interests as tenants might have conflicted with their duties as trustees to the estate of Charles.

But the conclusive objection to the application of the absolute rule relied on by Mr Romer was that it was not they who had put themselves in that position. They had been put there mainly by the testator's grant of the tenancies and by the provisions of his will and partly by the contractual arrangements by which Charles had been a party to which Charles had acquired his share in the tenancies.

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It was significant that the

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● MEDICINE: SKIN CANCER DIAGNOSIS
● TECHNOLOGY: 'NEW AGE' CROFTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

One small step is a giant leap in vision

Microrobots doing internal body repairs may seem futuristic but the reality is close, Phillip Campbell says

Nanotechnology is a burgeoning scientific field that suggests exciting possibilities, ranging from microrobots inside the body performing surgery to those used in the atmosphere attacking pollutants. Scientists have even talked of using them as microscopic troops, penetrating enemy computers, or sabotaging leader's brains. But such futuristic speculation tends to detract from the reality of nanotechnology which is in use today in such areas as highly-precise engineering.

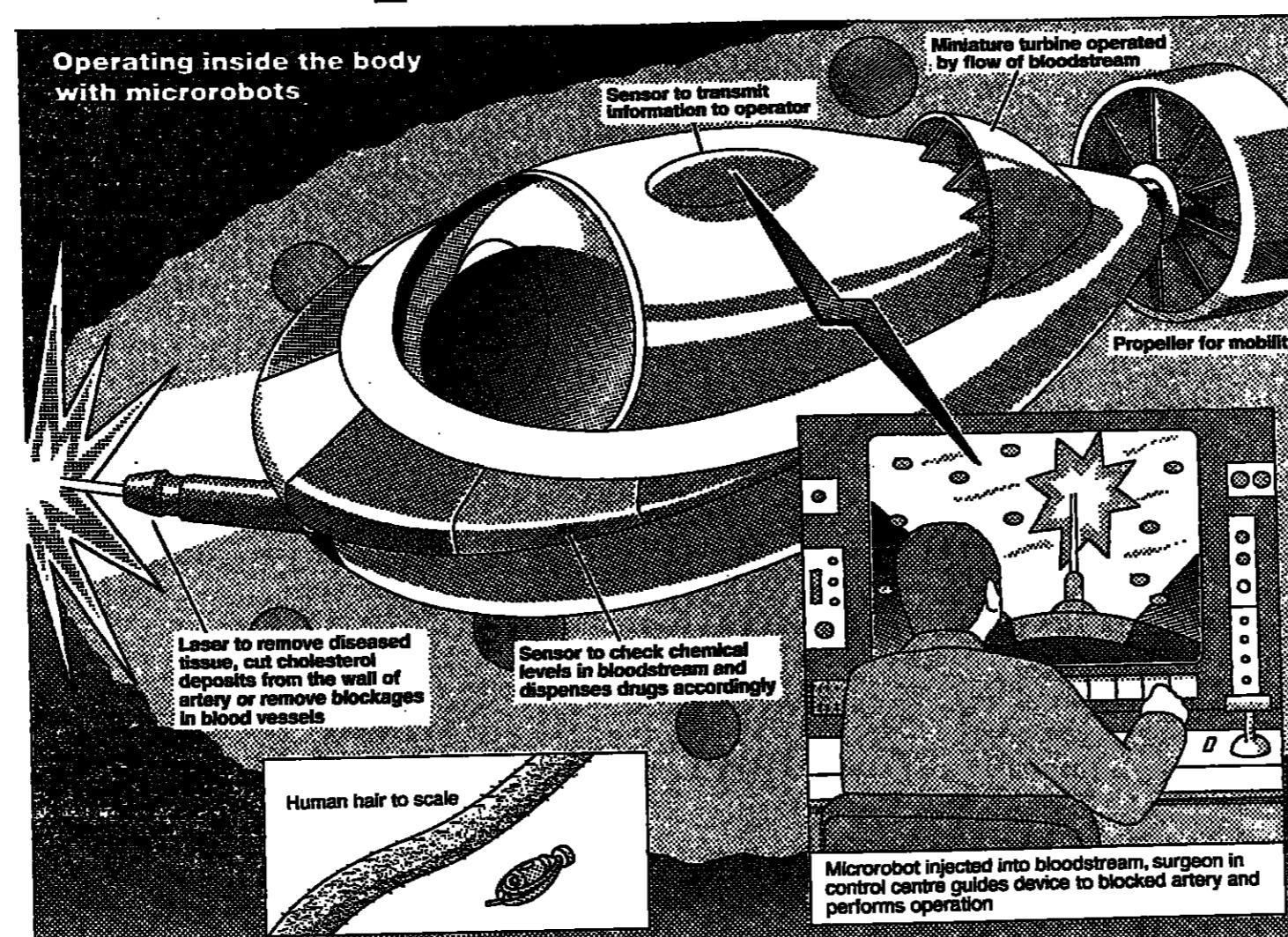
Nanotechnology is the ability to shape and use materials at scales as small as individual atoms. The "nano" prefix refers to the unit of size known as the nanometre, or one thousandth of a millionth of a metre. This is about three times the distance between atoms in everyday materials – and, with the help of new devices, some scientists have begun to manipulate substances atom by atom.

A group of Canadian biomedical engineers, with the help of a unique "tele-microrobot" that converts directions to submicroscopic movement, has been able to mechanically test fibres by pulling, twisting and manipulating the internal parts of muscle cells. Though manipulating atoms may seem a pipedream, the fact remains that if several strands of nanotechnology now in use fulfil their potential, micromachines – including microrobots – could become reality.

Next week Japanese and American experts will join British speakers at an Institute of Physics conference at the Royal Festival Hall in London that will explain why academia, industry and governments in Europe, North America and Japan are taking a keen interest in the discipline.

The developing ability at or below the nanometre scale has already opened up a new field of technology. Unhappily for the proselytizers of the discipline, these have been mainly in the fields of integrated circuits and high-precision machining – worthy enough, but hardly the stuff to fire the taxpayer's imagination.

Perhaps that is why so much is made of the highly futuristic visions of some nanotechnologists. The hype is often dangerously hard to distinguish from possible reality. Onlookers are apt to be reminded of other technologies that were eventually snatched in the public eye by premature exaggeration.



WHEN FICTION MEETS REALITY: MOVES TOWARDS ANOTHER FANTASTIC VOYAGE

TWENTY-FIVE years after the film, *Fantastic Voyage*, in which doctors and a submarine were reduced to microscopic size, and injected into the human bloodstream to perform a brain operation, scientists believe it may eventually be possible to send miniaturized robots on similar errands.

Futuristic but feasible projects could include machines only a millionth of a metre long.

performing a range of extraordinary tasks within the body, pursuing viruses and attacking cancer cells, cleaning up cholesterol from arteries and dissolving blood clots.

They might be equipped with turbines driven by the flow of the bloodstream, and armed with cutting tools, diagnostic and imaging systems. They could carry transmitters to relay information back to doctors at control desks.

Another version could be an "intelligent pill" which, once injected, carries out chemical analyses of the blood and decides if and when drugs should be released, aimed at specific parts of the body.

According to the US National Science Foundation, such innovations are no longer technological daydreams, but worthy of serious study.

(Remember the promises of unlimited free energy when early atomic reactors were inaugurated?) It seems now that the future of nanotechnology risks suffering from public scepticism bred of today's hype.

The fanciful projections aside, where is nanotechnology now? The Canadian muscle-testing machine, developed by Dr Ian Hunter and colleagues at McGill University in Montreal, is one of the leading examples of microrobotics. The machine is of a normal size, but works with nanometre precision using its robotic attributes.

The project's aim is understanding the mechanical behaviour of the proteins that do the work

within muscle fibres. The machine has "actuators", such as linear motors, to produce tiny forces or movements; sensors to receive laser light reflected from the manipulated object so that the effects of the robot's actions can be monitored; and a "brain" – a computer that can independently co-ordinate simultaneous movements of the robot's limbs. A parallel system of controls allows humans to take the driving seat if so desired.

Dr Hunter foresees the relatively cumbersome machinery that drives his robot getting larger, not smaller; his principal aim is to provide more range in the manipulations. This is in sharp

contrast to the microminiaturization of an entire system for a "bloodstream robot" or "intelligent dust".

Already, for example, the large electronics manufacturers around the world are undertaking billion pound research programmes to generate the microchip of the future, consisting of nano-sized features etched into innovative semiconductor compounds.

New markets are expanding with the high-precision mechanical engineering tools that are being developed. The ability to make ultra-smooth surfaces with nanometre tolerances will, for example, open up a new range of devices used to reflect and focus X-

rays. Optical technology such as compact disc memories and holography also require nano-scale precision for best performance. As for mechanical micromechanics, the accepted rule is that the smaller the device, the tougher it is and the faster it can act; innovative applications now being explored include pressure sensors, printing, displays, telecommunications and medical equipment.

These examples highlight the key aspect of nanotechnology that has encouraged many governments to support its development: the large number of potential applications spanning several industrial sectors.

The most fun can be had in imagining the possibilities for com-

Progress that is skin deep

A sense of touch may create a breed of robot-butlers

AN artificial skin for robots that mimics human skin is being designed by engineers.

The inventors believe the development may hasten in the science-fiction age of robot-butlers by allowing robots to "feel". Although they can work on a production line, they cannot automatically switch grips to suit different items.

Robot-butlers need to be able to distinguish automatically between, say, a dish-cloth and an egg. The answer, researchers at the University of Pisa in Italy believe, could lie in a "smart" skin. They have designed one that structurally resembles human skin and senses in the way it does.

Living skin consists of two thin layers – the dermis and the epidermis. In the material being designed by the university's Dr Danilo De Rossi, the artificial dermis is made of a water-swollen gel bounded by two layers of electrodes.

The human dermis senses pressure by nerves monitoring the amount the dermis is deformed. The artificial version works in a similar way, with the voltage between the two layers of electrodes altering as more pressure is placed on the gel.

For the epidermis (upper layer), Dr De Rossi has resorted to an outer and lower rubber sheeting between which are sandwiched tiny, highly sensitive, disc-shaped piezoelectric sensors.

Piezoelectric sensors can produce an electric charge under extremely light pressures, such as those experienced when a hand encounters bumps on Braille text.

The main advantage of the Pisa system over rivals is that its epidermis can "feel" friction forces and pressures sliding across its surface.

Whether the invention will become practical depends as much on the skin as on the development of a computer capable of processing data generated by the sensors.

Nick Nuttal

Copernicus, who so shattered traditional cosmology by contending that the Earth revolves around the Sun, was the second of four children. His bitter opponent, Tycho Brahe, was an only child.

Charles Darwin, whose theory of natural selection overturned traditional views of the creation and evolution of life, was the fifth of six children and Alfred Russel Wallace, the co-discoverer of the theory, was the last of six children.

But George Cuvier, an upholder of the creationist view, was the first child of four, was Louis Agassiz, another opponent of Darwin.

Frank Sulloway, a historian of science who proposes that birth order makes a startling difference in the progress of science, is himself the third of four children.

Professor Sulloway cites the roles played by these and thousands of other scientists as prime evidence for a provocative theory: researchers who challenge established views tend to be born later in their families while those who support the status quo tend to be first-borns.

His proposal comes at a

First, but not always equal

Researchers are divided on the theory that birth order can influence behaviour

time when the idea that birth order leads to differences in behaviour is under fierce attack by social scientists.

Despite the attacks, the birth-order concept is an idea that refuses to die. His findings, announced in February, have sparked controversy even though they are yet to be published.

Professor Sulloway's study is perhaps the most elaborate among the continuing efforts of dozens of researchers to find a link between birth order and such things as managerial ability, drug abuse, criminality, and teenage pregnancies.

In 1988 and 1989, there were 45 scientific reports on birth order, more than a third of which found it had no effect.

In studies now under way,

Professor Sulloway, a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says he is finding the same birth-order effect at work among social reformers in historical movements, such as the abolition of slavery, civil rights, union organizing and women's rights.

His analysis is based on a study of 2,784 participants in 28 major scientific controversies in the past 400 years. He included major developments in science, as well as some obscure ones. The main criterion was whether enough remained in the historical record about the scientific debate to evaluate the main participant.

Of the 28 scientific revolutions, 23 were led by later-borns. And in those with a

first-born as the leader – Einstein and Newton, for example – their prominent allies were for the most part later-borns.

"The overall probability that a first-born will support a scientific revolution is 34 per cent; the odds that a late-born will do so are almost double at 64 per cent," Professor Sulloway says.

Judith Blake, a sociologist at the University of California, says: "I am sceptical of any reported effect for birth order. People get excited by the idea of birth order, but when you look at it scientifically, it evaporates."

In July, she published data showing that for 113,000 people, the order of birth made no difference in how far they went in school or how intelligent they were.

"What matters instead," she says, "is how large a family one comes from. What had seemed to be birth-order effects were artefacts. The real effect was due to parents' characteristics – the lower the social class and the less educated the parents, the bigger the family."

Daniel Goleman

Mapping out vehicle navigation

We soon may be able to throw away our 'A to Z' as we travel from A to B

A NEW car navigation system which offers drivers colour-coded maps of an area and its roads has been developed by engineers. The system, called AVIC-1, allows a driver to select from five levels of increasingly fine cartographic detail provided by satellite.

Also included in the display are names and locations of restaurants, hotels and entertainment centres with details on services they provide.

The system was developed by the Japanese Pioneer Electronic Corporation. The system is expected to be

available in June, but will only be marketed in Japan.

At the heart of the AVIC-1 are special compact discs which carry information for the maps and are linked with the vehicle's music system.

The car's location is calculated by satellite which returns the signal via the vehicle's antenna. The location is displayed on a 4-in colour screen as a red dot superimposed on a map.

The announcement of the new satellite car navigation system comes as the British Government completes licensing procedures for two in-car traffic information and navigation systems in the run-up to their commercial launch.

It is believed the GEC system, set for launch in a few years, could do away with the need for traditional maps.

Trafficmaster, developed by General Logistics, of Luton Bedfordshire, gives drivers up-to-the-minute information on congested and jammed motorways. It uses infra-red sensors on motorway bridges to monitor traffic flows, beaming details of speeds below

25mph to a central computer. Staff there relay news of trouble spots to subscribers through the VHF radiopaging network, Aircall. A pager unit in the car decodes the signal and displays information on the unit's screen.

The company plans to have Trafficmaster in operation by August. It will cover an area within a 35-mile radius of London. National coverage is expected to be in under way by spring, 1993.

The other British scheme

licensed this week is GEC's

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New tape puts trade in a spin

Philips' latest audio offering may be welcomed by music buffs, but it is likely to upset industry leaders in Japan

A new type of audio tape, called Digital Compact Cassette (DCC), is expected to be announced by the Dutch electronics company Philips later this month (*George Cole and Matthew May write*).

The tape will look like an ordinary audio cassette and will play on conventional home hi-fi systems, personal stereos and in-car players. However, it will also carry a hidden digital signal that will give better sound quality on a new generation of digital cassette players.

Although the sound quality of the digital track is not expected to be quite as high as that of a compact disc, it has the twin advantages of being compatible with the current audio tape format and also relatively cheap.

The development of DCC could be good news for audio buffs, but it has already created divisions between European and Japanese electronics companies.

The Japanese have produced a rival system known as Digital Audio Tape or DAT. This uses cassettes the size of a credit card to store two hours of high-quality digital sound.

But this is expensive, the players cost about £1,000 and the tape is not compatible with the millions of audio cassette decks already in use. It also means that software companies, which produce music tapes, would have to make two versions of the same cassette.

So far, Philips is refusing to talk about DCC because it is still negotiating with music software companies but, according to one senior Philips manager, DCC will shift the balance of power between Europe and Japan.

"For a long time, whenever Europe has gone into a meet-

ing with Japan, we have been psychologically beaten before we have even sat down. Now the boot is on the other foot."

While Japanese consumer electronics companies are clearly unhappy about DCC, Philips hopes music companies will be more enthusiastic. The music industry has already delayed the launch of DAT in Europe because it feared it would be used to make perfect copies of compact discs.

But Philips is believed to have gained the music companies' fears by telling them it will build an anti-copy system into the DCC format. The company is also in the music business as well — it owns the Polygram record company.

Another claim which may wipe out digital audio tape before it even arrives has been made by a designer at the Paisley College of Technology in Scotland who says he has invented a cheap system to produce his-free tapes which will work on ordinary cassette recorders and players.

The research adds weight to the question of whether industrial and work-related accidents are more prevalent in the early hours of the morning at a time when the alertness of some employees may be diminished.

Eight healthy young men took part in a series of two-week studies at the Centre for Circadian and Sleep Disorders, at Harvard. They reported for "work" at the laboratory, where half of them slept from midnight until 6am sitting at desks in front of very bright fluorescent lights, while the other half sat in normal lighting for the same period.

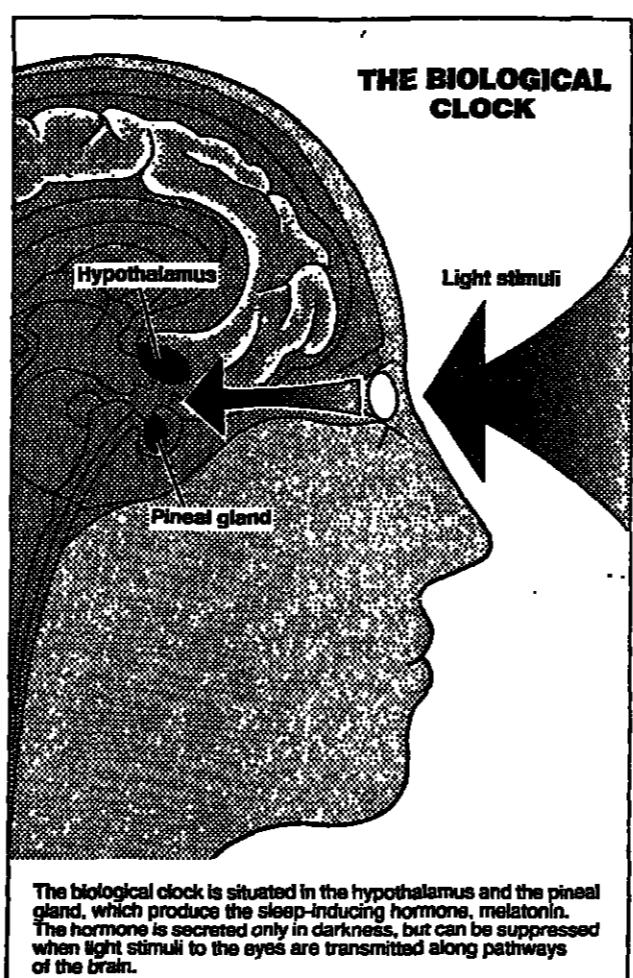
They had to carry out tasks, including mathematical calculations, to assess their alertness. The "bright-light" group went home to sleep in bedrooms where the windows were draped with material blocking out all daylight, while the others slept in rooms with curtains, but no special window coverings.

Dr Czeisler said that tests of the volunteers' body temperatures, hormones and mental functions showed that the bright-light group adjusted within four nights to their altered shifts, but the others did not.

He said that even after years of permanent night shifts, or a rotation of day, evening and night duties, many workers

Research dispels thinking that human body clocks are insensitive to light

New light on jet lag



The biological clock is situated in the hypothalamus and the pineal gland, which produce the sleep-inducing hormone, melatonin. The hormone is secreted only in darkness, but can be suppressed when light stimuli to the eyes are transmitted along pathways of the brain.

fail to adapt physiologically. Consequently, they were at increased risk of heart disease, gastro-intestinal illnesses, serious sleep disorders, and infertility problems among women.

Other studies have shown that one in five people cannot tolerate shift work, and that two out of three night workers either had chronic insomnia or admitted to falling asleep on the job at least once a week.

Dr Czeisler's bright-light technique appears to have reset the biological clock, located in the hypothalamus, a tiny area of the brain involved

in the secretion of hormones. Among these is the sleep-inducing substance, melatonin, which is secreted only in darkness and whose production is controlled by the presence or absence of direct-light stimulus to the eyes.

Thus, the bright-light volunteers stayed lively and alert through the night because their melatonin was suppressed, and slept better during the day because the hormone was encouraged by the black-out effects in their bedrooms.

Special office lighting systems and other adjustments could make it easier for night-shift workers to adapt. Dr Czeisler said that tests of the volunteers' body temperatures, hormones and mental functions showed that the bright-light group adjusted within four nights to their altered shifts, but the others did not.

He said that even after years of permanent night shifts, or a rotation of day, evening and night duties, many workers

Czeisler said. Such improvements could have a profound effect on industrial, and even military, safety.

According to a recent article in *Flight International*, US Air Force pilots flying almost exclusively at night on the top-secret Lockheed F-117A "stealth" fighter became apprehensive of sunrise.

They were anxious about getting to sleep when they landed, and rushed for the shelter of their blacked-out rooms.

"You would have thought you were at a vampire's convention as daybreak approached," a senior Lockheed executive was quoted as saying.

Dr Czeisler is also looking at the implications of his research into the treatment of conventional jet lag, and has discussed with two airlines the question of installing special lights in cabins for long-haul flights from the wild.

Harvard researchers believe that passengers can get much the same benefit by spending specific hours in daylight at their destinations.

The same theory is behind the launch last month of a British invention, the Bioclock.

This is a pocket-size computer which calculates the precise amount of exposure to daylight which it is said is needed to compensate for the effects of long flights across time zones.

Passengers enter into the £80 device the times of their flight departure and arrival, duration of the trip, and whether the direction is westwards or eastwards.

They can check exactly when they should be in light or shade, say inventors Christine Lenihan and Dr Peter Bick.

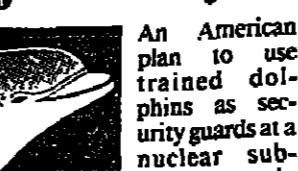
Air travel across time zones lengthens or shortens passengers' "daytime", confusing the body's timetable and provoking the jet lag symptoms of fatigue, indigestion, lack of concentration and impaired physical responses.

Other researchers are investigating the possibilities of a melatonin pill to overcome jet lag.

Dr Josephine Arand, of Surrey University, has shown that melatonin treatment benefits volunteer passengers.

She is now assessing its effects on men working at Britain's Antarctic research station, where the disappearance of the sun for three months every winter disrupts their circadian rhythms.

Dolphins join navy



sensitive ribbon, takes three minutes to transmit an 8 inch by 10 inch (20cm by 25cm) high quality copy of a colour photograph.

Hacker outcry

As the Private Member's Bill against computer hacking completed its passage through the Commons last Friday, hardliners in America criticized what they saw as too soft a sentence on the infamous US hacker Robert Morris. In November 1988 Mr Morris clogged up thousands of computers and caused millions of dollars worth of damage after releasing a computer "worm" that spread widely over a nationwide network. Last week he was sentenced to 400 hours of community service and a \$10,000 fine under the Computer and Fraud Abuse Act which, similar to its proposed British counterpart, includes the possibility of prison sentences up to five years.

Food dangers

A study of more than 6,000 cancer victims in Sweden has found women had a 22 per cent lower death rate than men from the disease, apparently because female sex hormones prevented cancer from spreading.

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A fishy find

Two New York entrepreneurs claim to have developed a technique to give chickens the chemical make-up of a fish. The technique will also breed poultry that may help prevent heart disease. Carl Schwartz and Howard Weiss have developed a new chicken feed and a method for administering the feed that they say increases greatly the amount of Omega-3 fatty acids in both the chicken meat and eggs. Researchers have looked at such fatty acids in an effort to explain why heart disease is far less common in parts of the world where people consume a lot of fish.

Matthew May

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 42

Touche Ross



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A darker side to those spells in the sun

As more Britons bask in the sun, they increase their risk of developing skin cancers. Thomson Prentice reports on a new method of diagnosis which may reduce the need for distressing biopsies

Last week's heatwave may offer the prospect of a long hot summer, but it also prompts warnings from researchers who are investigating the increase of a potentially fatal form of skin cancer.

Although few people on British beaches may regard the sun as an enemy, melanoma, caused by excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet light, leads to about 1,000 deaths a year in this country. It is a serious public health threat in Australia, the United States and South Africa.

The disease can be cured by early diagnosis and treatment, but once the cancer becomes invasive, there is little that can be done to save sufferers.

The majority of victims in Britain are middle-aged women, but the condition is increasing among younger people who have one or more foreign sunbathing holidays

every year. One of the first signs of the disease is moles on the skin which have started to grow, itch or bleed. Dermatologists who examine the moles can form a suspicion about them, but an accurate diagnosis depends on their removal by biopsy and microscopic examination.

However, even in specialists' centres, about 50 moles are removed for every one which turns out to be a melanoma. The unnecessary operations cause anxiety to the patient and add to the cost of the health service.

Two doctors at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north west London, believe they have a solution. Dr Aman Dhillon, senior lecturer in pathology, and Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist, are experimenting with what they believe is an improved method of detecting the early signs of skin cancer.



What price a tan? Young women who spend holidays sunbathing, are most at risk

They have developed a system of computerized image analysis that reveals much more information about suspicious moles.

The system has not been tested on patients yet, but would involve their moles being filmed with a video camera, and the magnified

images projected on to a computer screen. The computer analyses the four features of moles used to identify melanomas clinically: the asymmetry, border, colour and diameter of each mole.

"We hope that the results, by refining clinical criteria, will improve diagnosis and thereby reduce the number of benign moles which are removed unnecessarily," Dr Dhillon says.

"The primary aim is to allow a better discrimination between benign moles and those that are clinically suspicious. We think there is considerable scope for reduc-

tion of the anxieties and costs involved in unnecessary biopsies." The system is still some way from being available to patients. Dr Dhillon and Dr Rustin are hoping to get funding for a three-year trial of the technique, involving 500 patients a year, costing about £60,000.

In the trial, patients with suspicious moles will be examined both in the conventional way and using image analysis, and the diagnoses will be confirmed through biopsy. The results of the two methods will then be compared to see whether the computer system is more accurate.

The doctors predict that the rising incidence of the disease is likely to continue, as more people indulge in more sunbathing and as the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer allows more ultraviolet sunlight through.

"The current methods of assessing early possible signs of melanoma are inadequate," Dr Dhillon says.

"We have to try to produce improvements."

"National and European grant-awarding bodies and specialist associations must use their influence to pool and integrate resources nationally and internationally to form centres of research excellence," he says.

Hi-tech to the East

PROPOSALS to relax the restrictions on the export of advanced technology to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe announced last week by the United States Government are likely to be far reaching. (Matthew May writes)

The plans will be considered at the next meeting of Coocom, the 17-nation body which controls the list of high-technology items restricted from export. The only argument is expected to be whether or not the plans go far enough. Thirty of the 120 categories now on the list would be removed and 13 more would be partially lifted.

The result would mean that almost any personal computer could be exported anywhere. This is an area where European and US manufacturers have consistently argued that restrictions have meant only lost business opportunities, as such machines are widely available on the world market.

"They should also make use of the media to promote awareness and encourage early diagnosis."

Professor Greaves says that dermatological research in Britain and in other European countries is carried out on a relatively small scale.

For Eastern European countries moving towards democratic reforms, the US is suggesting that requests for computers used in banking, travel and publishing should get favourable consideration.

JOBS SCENE

Engineer's title role confusion

IT experts seeking recognition of their skills face the question of qualification

Information technology experts could become chartered engineers if the British Computer Society (BCS) is successful in its attempt to become a nominated body of the Engineering Council. The move is part of a drive within the industry to formalize the practice of developing software and, if successful, BCS would be able to confer the title of chartered engineer on IT practitioners.

Membership of the BCS remains one of the few avenues open to IT practitioners to gain formal recognition for their skills. The engineer title – already being conferred informally on certain categories of software developers – is causing confusion.

Companies are advertising for software engineers and some are now also referring to information engineers. Most are seeking staff with experience of developing systems using structured or formal methods, although few firms state a preference for any particular qualification.

Some see these titles as little more than a new hat for an old job. Others argue that the engineer title indicates the practitioner's ability to develop software using specific methods or principles.

Others seek to draw a distinction between software engineers – those who produce the system – and information engineers who define the solution, but leave it to the software engineers to construct.

Yet others see the information engineer as a description applicable to those using computer-aided software engineering (Case) products to both define the system and automatically generate it from the original specification on powerful work stations.

"We have had to create a new category of IT staff called

information engineers to draw a distinction from consultants or analysts," says David Fairbairn, the managing director of James Martin Associates (0784 245 058).

"Information engineers are a combination of the analyst and designer. An information engineer will work with the user to define the system and then create the software using Case technology on workstations."

These titles throw the existing hierarchy into some confusion and blur the boundaries between job functions.

John Kirkham, consultant to the Department of Trade and Industry's Software Engineering Solutions programme, says: "The old titles of programmer and analyst do not apply anymore, and the engineer title reflects the technique of designing systems formally."

The business analyst is now seen as an information engineer – someone who analyses the business problem and decides what system is needed. The software engineer constructs it. But information engineering encompasses software engineering – there is no black-and-white divide."

Companies are recruiting from different backgrounds to spearhead the new breed of information and software engineers. Scientists, with their formal training, are seen as having the ideal skills for making use of the latest generation of Case techniques and engineering approaches.

Oracle, the software supplier, is looking to recruit a number of PhD graduates in unrelated subjects to develop business software applications for customers. "We are using structured engineering techniques in building software and scientific training helps in terms of a methodical approach to planning and defining applications," says Alan Hovell, Oracle's recruitment manager (0344 86006).

He says one reason is that many existing analysts have little training in formal methods and the industry needs to recruit outside traditional areas to make up the shortfall of expertise.

Leslie Tilley

First blinks of eye on the sky

AS GROUND controllers struggle to reprogram the communications system of the Hubble Space Telescope to overcome the trouble caused by an obstruction to one of its antennae, its counterpart on the ground is yielding results, (Pearce Wright reports).

The latest and most powerful earth-bound instrument is the New Technology Telescope (NTT) which has been installed by the eight-national European Southern Observatory organization, at its 2400m mountain-top site at La Silla, in Chile. One of the prime purposes of the NTT, which cost \$14 million (£5.2 million) to build, will be the observation of very faint and distant galaxies.

Initial tests have concentrated on the scrutiny of known stars and galaxies, with intriguing findings. The details outlined in *The Messenger*, the organization's quarterly bulletin, include a

description of the "light echo", a phenomenon generated by a supernova explosion in February 1987, the first naked-eye supernova explosion seen in 400 years. The "light echo" that followed the first sighting of this dramatic event was the discovery of a ring of light reflected from inter-stellar dust clouds.

Detailed pictures of that echo, still spreading across the sky in the southern hemisphere, have been obtained together with the clearest images yet seen of an object known as the "Peculiar Galaxy" that has baffled astronomers. The clarity of the new images is proof of the idea of active optics pioneered at the NTT by a team working with Dr Raymond Wilson, the organization's senior optical scientist. Advances in automation and remote control will allow long-distance observations with the NTT by astronomers in Europe.

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Michelozzo can help Cecil team gather two main Chester prizes

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

HENRY Cecil and Steve Cauthen look poised to win the two main races at Chester today with Saumarez (245) and Michelozzo (345), who are both stabled not at Warren Place but in their owner Charles St George's private St George Lodge yard.

The fact that last year's St Leger winner Michelozzo will be making his seasonal debut in the Ormonde EBF Stakes speaks for itself because Cecil vowed not to risk him until the ground was right. And right it clearly is now on the Roodeye following an appreciable amount of rain in the area.

When he ran away from the Hor winning Sapience and the Yorkshire Oaks winner Roseate Tern to win the St Leger at Ayr last September, Michelozzo showed just how

much he appreciated a bit of rain in the ground.

Not that his earlier form on faster going was anything but decent. At Goodwood, he easily accounted for Desmawend and Noble Savage at the expense of Bridal Toast who could still be Epsom-bound.

For Saumarez this represents both a step up in distance and rise in class, having only contested a maiden at Ripon and a graduation race at Sandown, both over a mile.

The distance should not pose a problem for a colt who is by Rainbow Quest out of a mare by Welsh Pageant. A horse of the calibre of Bridal Toast, who was runner-up to the current Derby favourite Digression in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot last September, could easily prove more troublesome.

However, the way that Saumarez worked with Tuesday's Chester Vase winner Belmez when I saw them in action on the Limericks at Newmarket recently, more

Cecil team by winning the 177th Year Of The Dee Stakes at the expense of Bridal Toast on this occasion.

A victory for Saumarez will draw attention to the chance that Superfener has of winning the Graham's Machinery Sales Handicap and thus give his owner Marquesa de Moratalla and trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald more cause for celebration only three days after Monday's big strike at Haydock Park with Sybilline.

When he finished third behind Saumarez at Ripon, Superfener gave the impression that a drop back to today's slightly shorter trip could prove profitable, particularly since he is by the sprinter Superative.

Finally, High Five looks the best bet of the day at Carlisle where he is napked to win the Enderdale Maiden Stakes after being beaten only a length by Abel Prospect first time out at Brighton.

than hinted that he could be too good for Bridal Toast on this occasion.

PETER Greenall, the chairman of Aintree, yesterday asked the race planning committee of the Jockey Club to review its decision to turn down the course's application for a two-day meeting on November 28 and 29 (Racecourse Show).

"If we want to be innovative it's no good just sticking to the status quo," Greenall said. "I would like the Jockey Club to think again when it considers the planning committee's decision next Monday."

John Parrett, the clerk of the course, said: "We have invested £8 million in the last seven years, £2.9 million of it on the new grandstand, which will be ready for the next Grand National meeting."

If this application is rejected, over £100,000 in prize-money will be lost, and an opportunity for more racing over the Grand National fences. It would also be open to the possibility of further high-class racing in the north.

Although an alternative two-day date, December 13 and 14, was offered, John Parrett, the clerk of the course, declined

Support for rethink on Aintree

Travelling Light lands rich haul for Ramsdens

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

NOT since John Cherry in 1976 has the Ladbrokes Chester Cup been so easily won as it was when Alan Munro sent Travelling Light to a storming home by six lengths in yesterday's rain-softened race.

"In this ground you had to be full of confidence," said the 23-year-old jockey find of the season after dismounting from the 5-2 favourite. "I settled down second only going half past the first. I took my time, I kept straight, and I could only see some little specks behind me. I was worried that I'd be in trouble for winning so far."

Never the fate of a major handicap have been decided quite so far from home. And the rest came as a procession from the moment that Munro sent the favourite clear on the bridle from his struggling rivals six furlongs out.

After Rambo Castle had finished six lengths second with Andorra 10 lengths away and Good Hand fourth, the first four home in this historic trip had been saddled by Yorkshire trainers.

"He's a decent horse on good going, but very good one on soft," said Lynda Ramsden, the winning trainer. "When the ground became soft the plan was for Alan to ride him close to the pace or even to make the running if nothing went on."

Travelling Light will now probably run in the Ascot Stakes and after that in the Northumberland Plate. But it obviously all depends on the going."

In her fourth year to hold a licence, Mrs Ramsden has now saddled 11 winners. And yesterday's first prize of over £22,000 was the richest catch of her career to date.

The trainer's husband, Jack, has long been a legendary judge of the formbook. And for many years he has been the gambler



Lynda Ramsden: fine win with Travelling Light

most feared by the betting public.

"I really is all down to teamwork," Mrs Ramsden went on. "I check it and does the entries, and I do the training. Yesterday, Travelling Light's magnificent condition in the paddock as well as his form in the race paid eloquent tribute to her skills."

As a punter Ramsden has always laid emphasis on getting value for money rather than taking short-priced favourites.

"The price is as it is to be," she said. "But I believe the way Travelling Light had won in the soft so easily at Ayr last September, it didn't require much imagination to see him winning a big handicap one day when the conditions were right."

The punters had forced Travelling Light's price from 3-1 to 2-1. Half-an-hour earlier, the crowd of over 20,000 had also been shouting their heads off when Warm Feeling romped home by eight lengths in the Cheshire Regiment Handicap.

In its own way the easy win of the 6-4 favourite for Steve Cauthen and Barry Hills was almost as spectacular as that of

the Chester Cup winner in his previous race. Warm Feeling had finished a four lengths runner-up to Belmez, Tuesday's controversial Chester Vase winner.

"Warm Feeling should be able to win a listed race," said the trainer. "He's still in the Irish Derby and who knows what can happen in a year like this. In a way it makes you think about Belmez as I certainly rate Missionary Ridge superior to Warm Feeling."

Cauthen and Hills completed a double when Russian Promoter won the Roodeye Maiden Stakes for Robert Sangster and Gordon White.

Not for the first time Chev Brittan provided the shock winner of a major race when Michael Roberts sent Phoenix sprinting past Ruby Tuesday and the Shadow in the Cheshire Cup by two lengths. Wajna, 11-0 favourite to win the listed race for Henry Cecil, finished third, four lengths further away.

"She might run in the Italian Oaks and she'll win us another nice race," said Brittan. "She's only a little thing and we couldn't train her last year."

Brittan and Roberts went on to complete a 23-1 double when Water Well stayed on strongly to capture the Sefton Maiden Fillies Stakes.

Latest betting on the Oaks from William Hill is 9-4 Salsabi with the proviso of a run. They then go 4-1 Sardaigna, 12-1 Virea and Silk Slipper. No decision about Epsom, or any other target for that matter, has yet been taken about Salsabi after her gallant victory in last week's 1,000 Guineas.

Doncaster has approached the Levy Board for help in financing this year's St Leger after failing to attract a sponsor.

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Orchard Native CHESTER 4.15 Hannibal 2.30

Theatrical Charmer eyes Chantilly

THEATRICAL Charmer, potentially the best three-year-old middle-distance colt in Britain, will go direct to the Prix du Jockey Club (the French Derby) on June 3.

"He's not eligible for the race we'd planned, the Glasgow Stakes at York, as he's won a couple of races," said Alex Scott yesterday. "We toyed with the idea of going to Paris on Sunday

for the Prix Lupin, but decided against it. There's now no other intermediate race before Chantilly."

In last week's Newmarket Stakes, Maktoum Al Maktoum's Salfi well colt entered home to a cheeky win over Dorset Duke and Rudy's Fantasy, spiking off an instant realisation among watchers that Theatrical Charmer would now be one of the favourites for the

Derby if only he had been entered for the Blue Riband of the turf.

• Alex Scott's Nahril Dancer, whose three visits to France last year yielded one second, one third and one fourth, can finally gain the maximum reward from a cross-channel sortie by winning the group three Prix de Saint-Georges (5f), at Longchamp today Pat Eddery has the ride.

HUNTINGDON

Selections

By Mandarin

6.0 GLENSTAL ABBEY 6.0 NEARLY READY 7.0 SAND CASTLE 7.0 SHORT LIST 8.0 FARMLES BOY 8.30 Snugfit's Image.

Going: chase course good to firm, hurdles firm.

6.0 WOOLLY NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,576 2m 10f) (4 runners)

1 6264 GLENSTAL ABBEY 2 (S) R. Aspinwall 10-0 — J. Lynch 10-0
2 6261 SHOTY 9 (F) J. Gilford 7-1-3 (3rd) Peter Head
3 6262 PAK ARCTIC 14 (C,F,G,S,T) Bill 11-10-5 D. O'Leary 11-0-4
4 6263 ALTA EXPRESS 34 (D,F,G) Mrs R. Murray 11-0-4 D. O'Leary

5 6242 JUST A GHOST 3 (D,F) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

6 6252 FANTASY 4 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

7 6253 CHASER 12 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

8 6254 CHASER 13 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

9 6255 CHASER 14 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

10 6256 CHASER 15 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

11 6257 CHASER 16 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

12 6258 CHASER 17 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

13 6259 CHASER 18 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

14 6260 CHASER 19 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

15 6261 CHASER 20 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

16 6262 CHASER 21 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

17 6263 CHASER 22 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

18 6264 CHASER 23 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

19 6265 CHASER 24 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

20 6266 CHASER 25 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

21 6267 CHASER 26 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

22 6268 CHASER 27 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

23 6269 CHASER 28 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

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31 6277 CHASER 36 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

32 6278 CHASER 37 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

33 6279 CHASER 38 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

34 6280 CHASER 39 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

35 6281 CHASER 40 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

36 6282 CHASER 41 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

37 6283 CHASER 42 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

38 6284 CHASER 43 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

39 6285 CHASER 44 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

40 6286 CHASER 45 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

41 6287 CHASER 46 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

42 6288 CHASER 47 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

43 6289 CHASER 48 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

44 6290 CHASER 49 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

45 6291 CHASER 50 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

46 6292 CHASER 51 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

47 6293 CHASER 52 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

48 6294 CHASER 53 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

49 6295 CHASER 54 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

50 6296 CHASER 55 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

51 6297 CHASER 56 (D,F,G) Mrs J. French 14-10-4 Miss F. French

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Robinson saves blushes of holders

TIM Robinson, the captain, saved Nottinghamshire from a sensational defeat against Scotland in their rain-affected Benson and Hedges Cup game in Glasgow yesterday.

The holders scraped to a last-over win after making heavy weather of a victory target of 209. Robinson claimed the Gold Award as he steered his team to a four-wicket win with just four balls to spare.

Excellent bowling by the spinner, Clarence Parfitt, who took four for 16, created havoc in Nottinghamshire's middle order. They lost the openers, Chris Broad and Paul Pollard, for 20 but Paul Johnson pulled them round with 52.

The South African all-rounder, Omar Henry, hit an unbeaten 62 in Scotland's 55-over total of 208 for six. Richard Swan weighed in with 53, adding 90 with Henry for the fifth wicket. Scotland, 115 for our overnight.

SCOTLAND

I J Philp	b Pick	18
B W Patterson	run out	22
R G Swan	c Pick b Saseley	53
M J Smith	bowled b Saseley	22
D Broad	not out	62
D Brown	Stenhouse	22
J H Hegg	not out	22
Extras (lb 1, 10, w 9, nb 1)		2
Total (5 overs, 55 overs)		208
D Cowan, J D Mok and C L Parfitt did not bat.		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-72; 4-83; 4-161; 5-141; 6-145; Stenhouse 11-0-49-2; Cowper 11-3-30; Pick 11-0-45-2; Saseley 11-3-32; Afford 11-2-31.		

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

B C Broad	b Cowen	14
P J Parfitt	c Cowen b Mair	52
R T Robinson	not out	70
P Johnson	Parfitt	52
F D Mair	not out	5
B French	b Parfitt	25
K E Cooper	not out	11
Extras (3, b 5, w 4)		22
Total (5 overs, 54.2 overs)		211
R A Cowen, J A Mair and K Saseley did not bat.		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20; 2-20, 9-95; 4-114; 5-133; 6-173.		
BOWLING: Cowen 11-0-51-1; Mair 11-0-51-1; Cooper 11-0-42-2; Mair 11-0-45-0; Smith 10-0-45-0; Parfitt 11-3-154.		
Gold Award: R T Robinson.		
Umpires: K J Lyons and B Leedster.		

BENSON AND HEDGES TABLES

Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
S	W	L	Pts	S	W	L	Pts
Glamorgan	2	1	4	Lancashire	2	1	0
Worcestershire	2	1	4	Surrey	2	1	0
Kent	2	1	4	Yorkshire	2	1	0
Gloucestershire	2	0	2	Combined Univs	2	2	1
Warwickshire	2	0	0	Hampshire	3	0	1

New Zealand ease in thanks to Crowe

A QUICK-FIRE 48 from Martin Crowe helped the New Zealanders beat Ireland by a comfortable seven wickets with 18 overs to spare in the first of the two one-day matches between the countries at Downpatrick yesterday.

Crowe hit three towering sixes and one four before being dismissed with two runs required.

John Wright, the New Zealand captain, who along with Richard Hadlee and Ian Smith was playing his first game of the tour, also hit a brisk 49 off of a first-wicket partnership of 71 with Trevor Franklin, who scored 26.

Chasing 152, New Zealand were never in any serious trouble.

Ireland had struggled to 151 for nine from their 55 overs. The innings was dominated by a half-century from the Indian Test batsman, Raman Lamba, who was playing his first match as the Irish professional.

He hit four boundaries in his innings of 52, and was eventually caught behind off the bowling of Hadlee.

Lamba starred in a third-wicket stand of 69 with Stephen Warke, who made 23, but Alan

Richardson

and

McCrumb

and

McGraw

and

McLennan

LETTERS: 44
RACING: 45
CRICKET: 46

THE TIMES

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 10 1990

Europe wants legal pledges from England

From David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent
Göteborg

LENART Johansson, the president of UEFA, the European football union, yesterday spelled out the terms under which his executive committee might allow English clubs back into European competition next autumn. The door is not closed, but it is only conditionally ajar.

In an exclusive interview, given to *The Times* before the Cup Winners' Cup final last night, Johansson made it clear that guarantees would be needed from Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, on legal provisions to be undertaken by the Home Office and Foreign Office, irrespective of a problem-free World Cup by followers of England. The latter, in my opinion, is highly improbable.

Johansson, the Swede elected last month as president of the

governing body of European football, said: "I have never personally been emphatic one way or the other. I am going to London to talk with the minister and officials of the Football Association and Football League, hoping to be given answers on critical issues, before the meeting of our executive committee in Vienna in two weeks' time."

The problem of football violence cannot be solved by doing nothing. Of course, the final responsibility rests with UEFA, but before any decision is taken we should listen to those in England and discover how far they are prepared to share responsibility with us.

"If the British Government is proposing to take all possible legal steps within its ability, on security abroad and at home on high-risk matches, and if the FA and Football League convince us they

too are ready, then the answer could be Yes."

Johansson was dismayed to learn of the lack of co-operation between the police and football authorities at the match between Bournemouth and Leeds last Saturday, given all the warning signs, including that emphasized in *The Times* following the invasion of the Leeds pitch by 5,000 spectators at the end of their match against Leicester the previous weekend.

"The match was still played as if nothing could happen," Johansson said in evident astonishment.

"There is not such a difference in football violence in the Netherlands and Italy, except that their authorities react as if the worst

might happen at every match."

"Football has become almost

compared with a war. Yet I do not believe we should give up. It will

cost a lot to find the solution, but it would cost even more to society to allow a minority to kill off football. We must be positive. Even if we were to close all football, the trouble-makers would simply go somewhere else."

Johansson considered that if Moynihan and the FA, as expected, request that UEFA delays the decision until the end of the World Cup, the executive committee might establish alternative decisions on May 24: continued exclusion in the event of trouble, re-entry in the absence of it.

Administration requires a clear procedure because the draw for the European club competitions takes place only three days after the World Cup final. Johansson presumed the English would request re-admission if massive Italian police control proved effective.

Following the agreement on Tuesday by the Football League to concede to the Association of Chief Police Officers the right to switch the date and place of fixtures for safer crowd control, Johansson is to propose the same condition for European competitions. Home clubs will have to obtain the guarantee of sufficient police manpower or the match will be moved to a larger town.

In other words, if Manchester United or Liverpool were drawn, say, against Aarhus in Denmark or a Luxembourg club, the match could be moved to Copenhagen or Brussels. If Norwich were to play Ajax, the home leg might have to be moved to an English city with greater police strength.

"This must be the system," Johansson said. "Clubs and cities have to share the responsibility with us. They collectively receive

millions of pounds in benefit, and they must share the cost to eliminate the problems. There will always be fight at football. Hesel was the product of many errors.

"Although I am ultimately responsible in European football, we have to do something together: or give in to a minority of a few thousand. I want to be positive without being naive."

Johansson privately regretted the decision in England, following the Taylor report, to remove or reduce many of the fences keeping the crowd off the pitch; he believed that electronically-controlled safety gates, released by one press of a button, would be preferable. Police control, he argued, had to be supplemented by foolproof structural restrictions.

Moreover, he said, police could and should be more effective. "When English spectators arrived

in Sweden last autumn for the World Cup qualifying match, the trouble-makers were there among the rest. Yet they were allowed to start smashing windows in the city centre. The Stockholm police should be able to handle 300 trouble-makers."

With many years in the game, Johansson is not immune to the underlying motivation of those, including those besides the English, who claim that European football needs them as much as the English need European competition. There is an inherent danger in this philosophy. As Gerhard Aigner, the UEFA general secretary, said: "In reality, little has changed in the last five years."

Johansson, a reasonable man, said: "I have an open mind." Johansson's very openness may itself pose a danger.

Islanders decline to give Minister safety guarantees

From John Goodbody, Cagliari

COLIN Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday ran into local difficulties in his attempt to minimize possible hooliganism at the World Cup.

Although he obtained support from the Italian Government in Rome for the principle of no alcohol being sold in local bars for the 24 hours on the day that England play their three matches in the preliminary round, Moynihan flew out last night without the certainty that such an order would be carried out by the Sardinian authorities.

All he received from the meetings with Dr Mario Praxi, the deputy prefect, and Emilio Pazzi, the head of police, was an agreement that this would be considered by the Municipality.

There will have to be some strong influence from the Italian Government on the officials of Cagliari, who are noted for their independence,

Recent experience has unlikely to take place during matches in the stadium which Moynihan toured last night because the games have been so heavily policed since the experience of the Heysel disaster in 1985 when 39 Juventus supporters were killed after rioting by Liverpool supporters.

Any trouble is more likely to occur outside the bars in the city centres where large groups

games start early next season. Hans-Georg Moldenhauer, president of the East German Soccer Federation, said his organization was considering pulling out from the qualifications because rapid moves to unite the German states may produce a single German team by 1992.

"We are going to watch the developments and if necessary we will discuss a withdrawal before the start of qualifications," he said.

East and West Germany are in the same group for the championships in Sweden, along with Wales, Belgium and Luxembourg. Qualifying

Police and League rapport is at a high

By Louise Taylor

THE degree of co-operation between the police and the Football League became clear yesterday, when *The Times* discovered that the League had agreed to 36 of the 38 requests from the police to reschedule matches last season. The two it refused to move, Bournemouth versus Leeds and Middlesbrough versus Newcastle, proved among the most troublesome.

Under pressure from the Home Secretary, the League pledged on Tuesday that it would accede to police advice over sensitive fixtures.

Superintendent Glen Sykes of Wiltshire Police explained how Swindon Town had agreed to rearrange five matches from Saturdays to Sundays last season. He said: "We asked for the matches against West Ham United, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Portsmouth, Sheffield United, and Leeds United to be switched to the Sunday because we had a history of problems involving the supporters of those clubs."

Dorset Police rejected by the League when they sought a switch of the Bournemouth versus Leeds match last Saturday, received a more encouraging response when they wanted Bournemouth's match against West Ham moved to a Sunday in November.

There were no problems then that I am aware of, so I have not got a clue as to why Leeds last Saturday was a problem," Inspector Philip Coward, the police liaison officer at Bournemouth, said. There were 130 arrests, mainly of Leeds supporters, at Bournemouth.

Chesterfield have brought forward to noon the kick-off of their fourth division promotion play-off game against Stockport in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the crowd disturbance last weekend. Police made 34 arrests after trouble at the game against Grimsby Town. Chesterfield have also made the play-off semi-final first leg an all-ticket game.

The matches in the 1989-90 season which the League switched at the request of the police:

New	Old	Match
Feb 3	Sept 23	Pot Vale v Stoke
Nov 1	Oct 31	Bournemouth v W Ham
Dec 13	Nov 16	Grimby v Chester
Dec 15	Dec 16	Crewe v Bristol R
Dec 17	Oct 14	W Shrop v Wolves
Jan 27	Jan 28	Tottenham v Wigan
Jan 14	Jan 15	Nottingham v Swindon
Feb 28	Feb 27	Swindon v Walsall
Feb 17	Feb 17	Bristol R v Walsall
Mar 10	Mar 10	Peterborough v Lincoln
Mar 12	Mar 12	Port Vale v Stoke
Sept 3	Sept 2	Tranmere v Huddersfield
Sept 25	Sept 20	Tranmere v Ertel C
Oct 27	Oct 27	Tranmere v Walsall
Oct 28	Oct 28	Tranmere v Crewe
Nov 13	Nov 11	Tranmere v Walsall
Nov 25	Nov 25	Swindon v Farnborough
Dec 10	Dec 9	Swindon v Shrewsbury
Dec 16	Dec 16	Tranmere v Chester
Dec 18	Dec 18	Carls v Stockport
Feb 4	Feb 3	Swindon v Leeks
Feb 24	Feb 24	Tranmere v Blackpool
Mar 9	Mar 10	Tranmere v Wigan
Mar 20	Mar 21	Wigan v Bolton W
Oct 19	Oct 19	Tottenham v Arsenal
Jan 14	Jan 13	Middlesbrough v Sunderland

Police in conjunction with local authority.

Position of president is at risk

THE second division play-offs could lead to a change of Football League president (Louise Taylor writes). Should Blackburn Rovers win promotion to the first division, Bill Fox, their chairman, would lose his place as a second division representative on the League management committee and would have to forfeit his role as president.

Similarly, if Newcastle United triumph in the play-offs, Gordon McKeag, their chairman, who narrowly lost to Fox in the contest for the presidency, would lose his seat as another second division representative on the management committee.

Rep Burr, the chairman of Millwall and a first division management committee representative, has already lost his League position following the relegation of his club.

Blackburn face Swindon Town in a semi-final of the play-offs, which begin on Sunday, while Newcastle United meet Sunderland.

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Dec 10	Dec 9	Swindon v Shrewsbury
Dec 16	Dec 16	Tranmere v Chester
Dec 18	Dec 18	Carls v Stockport
Feb 4	Feb 3	Swindon v Leeks
Feb 24	Feb 24	Tranmere v Blackpool
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Mar 20	Mar 21	Wigan v Bolton W
Oct 19	Oct 19	Tottenham v Arsenal
Jan 14	Jan 13	Middlesbrough v Sunderland

Police in conjunction with local authority.



In full flight: Atherton hooks the ball away on his way to a century and a record-breaking partnership in a game that was later abandoned. Match report, page 46

Students humble Yorkshire

By Martin Searby

HEADINGLEY: Combined Universities (2pts) beat York (no wickets)

YORKSHIRE yesterday suffered the indignity of defeat by the Combined Universities, who are confident they can reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup for the second successive year.

The universities achieved their target of 198 with seven balls to spare in an innings which owed much to the laxity of the Yorkshire fielding, which included four dropped catches.

Atkinson earlier struck crucial blows, two sixes in an over off Carrick, and four men in Yorkshire's stuttering innings on the first, rain-affected, day.

James, the opening batsman, benefited from three straightforward misses and stayed to play the anchor role in a knock of a little under three hours before he was sixth out.

Mark Crawley, the captain, said: "I think if he had gone we would have been in some trouble because our batting is not as sound as our bowling, to unseat Longley.

The ball seemed so considerably that survival and calm were important in the early part of the innings. James, riding his good fortune, supplied it with steady assistance from Dale, Atkinson and Longley. By lunch 86 were required from the last 16 overs and Jarvis, in a second spell, bowled with enough pace to

unseat Longley.

James, trying to pull, was finally beaten by a delivery that did not rise much as he anticipated after striking half a dozen good boundaries from his 137 balls. Orrell was foolishly run out and Van der Merwe went the same way.

Smith, a Yorkshireman on Gloucestershire's books, found it well worthwhile interrupting his final in French and German at Exeter University. He struck the winning blow to inflict on Yorkshire their fifth defeat in six matches this season.

YORKSHIRE: 197 for 8 (56 overs) (R J Blahey 65, P E Robinson 57).

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES:

S P James 62, S Searby 57.

A Dinsdale 5, S Searby 5, Jarvis 4.

D T Taylor 4, S Searby 4, Hardie 4.

J C M Atkinson 1, Helliwell 4.

J L Longley 1, Blahey 1, Jarvis 1.

W H van der Merwe 1, Orrell 1.

M Smith 1, Searby 1.

Umpires: G J Searby and D J Searby.

Total 16 wkt., 53.5 overs) — 200.

J Blahey did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-20, 3-36, 4-

5-121, 6-145, 7-176, 8-195.

BOWLING: Taylor 10-2-29-2, Siddlebottom 11-4-31-4, Tait 11-4-34-0, Hartley 11-3-34-3; Carrick 11-0-0-0.

Gold Award: W H van der Merwe

Umpires: B J Meyer and J C Balderson.

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